

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 14, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 14, 2013 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, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo. Vice Mayor Greene was absent.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 10, 2012. 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-yea, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea. Vice Mayor Greene was absent.

Vice-Mayor Greene entered the meeting.

Mayor Mitchell asked that council set a public hearing to consider interest in the Urban Archery Program that was discussed at the October meeting. He explained that if Council wishes to pursue such a program, staff will need to have a request to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries by April 1, 2013 as well as any required public hearings. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to set the public hearing for January 28, 2013. Councilwoman Crouse 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 and Councilwoman Crouse. Councilman Lazo was out of the room and did not vote.

This is the date that had been set as the public hearing to hear comments regarding a zoning request that John and Stephanie Brewer have submitted a request to rezone the property located at 650 Glendale Road (Tax Parcel 36-61) from R-2 to B-2 General Business to allow the property to be used as an office and/or retail business. A public hearing was held by the Galax Planning Commission on January 9, 2013. The recommendation from the Planning Commission was for City Council to approve the request as submitted. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing. After hearing no comments he then announced the public hearing closed. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the request and recommended by the Planning Commission. 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- yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

This is the date that had been set as the public hearing to hear comments regarding a request from Piedmont Properties, on behalf of Goodwill Industries of the Valley, Inc to subdivide a 4.1 acre parcel into two parcels. The subdivision will be part of the former tax parcel listed as 19-31 and locate at 1021 E. Stuart Drive. A public hearing was held by the Galax Planning Commission on January 9, 2013. The recommendation from the Planning Commission was for City Council to approve the request as submitted. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing. After hearing no comments he then announced the public hearing closed. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the request and recommended by the Planning Commission. 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- yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Chief Clark spoke to council in regards to Galax Police Department maintaining a more visible presence the Galax Elementary School. He stated that while the police department has a SRO for the school system, the majority of her time is spent at the High School and Middle School.

Chief Clark has met with the city manager, Keith Barker, and school superintendent Bill Sturgill to discuss placing an SRO in the Elementary School. He proposes that the city partner with the school system to provide a veteran officer at the school when students are in session. This would be an additional officer (part time) hired through the Galax Police Department. The intent would be to fund the position from a budget amendment for the remainder of FY2013, and going forward the school and the city would both budget funds for the position. The officer would be certified and employed through the Galax Police Department, would attend mandatory SRO training, and be DARE Certified. The total estimated cost for the remaining portion of FY2013 is \$15,000 and approximately \$25,000 for FY2014. Keith Barker, City Manager, has discussed this with the Director of Finance, and proposes amending the budget revenue in *10.3140.0101 Court Fines and Forfeitures* from \$85,000 to \$100,000 (increase of \$15,000). He would propose amending the expenditures in *10.3101.1003 Police Department Part Time* from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Councilman Garner motioned to adopt the budget amendment as proposed in order to provide financial support for the hiring of a Galax Elementary School SRO. The total revised budget is \$ 14,622,956 in revenue and expenditures and represents an overall \$15,000 increase. After a brief discussion of how the position would be staffed, 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- yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

City Council was asked to consider approval of a resolution that the Crooked Road has been working for approximately two years to earn designation as a NHA. Benefits to this designation include larger national recognition and possible matching federal operational funding. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve 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, Councilman Webb- yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Mayor Mitchell informed council that the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority was originally formed as the Carroll-Galax-Grayson Regional Industrial Facilities Authority (CGG-RIFA). In order assist in their marketing efforts, they have been operating as CGGRIFA *dba* BRCEDA. The City Attorney has recommended that council adopt the attached resolution and proceed to trademark the name that they have been using for a few years now. RIFA must remain in the formal name per state code. Councilman Garner motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilman Webb- yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Council was provided a listing of meeting dates for City Council, the City Holiday Calendar, City Trash Pickup Schedule, Festival Schedule and Road Closures for 2013. Noted on the City Council meeting calendar was consideration of changing the October meeting to October 7, 2013 due to the annual VML meeting (October 13-15). Councilwoman Crouse motioned to approve the four calendars 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- yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

City Council was asked to adopt the budget calendar for the FY 2014 Budget. Council was also asked to appoint Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner to act as a budget committee with the City Manager and Director of Finance throughout the budget process. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to approve the budget calendar as presented and that Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner be appointed to the budget committee. 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- yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.


HEARING OF VISITORS

Michael Blackburn appeared before council with concern of trash on Glendale Road and in his neighborhood in Glenn Ridge. He asked for information regarding any litter pickup programs the city had. He also asked that the city do something about the cigarette butts and trash in the turn lanes throughout the city.

Vice Mayor Greene also mentioned that trash was along Greenville Road as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.


Clerk


Mayor

