

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 28, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 28, 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, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo.

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

Councilman Garner motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 14, 2013. 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, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

This was the date set for a public hearing to consider interest in the Urban Archery Program that was discussed at the October meeting. Keith Barker 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. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing. Brenda Blattner spoke with concerns of the deer being hunted with cross bows and injured deer crossing over property lines. Councilman Lazo expressed his understanding of Mrs. Blattner's concerns and stated that this program could be rescinded at any time. Councilwoman Plichta recommended seeing if any satisfaction surveys had been done in localities where this program had taken place. Mayor Mitchell requested that the city manager and police chief follow up with localities that have permitted this type of program. No other citizen spoke, and Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing.

Brenda Marrah spoke on behalf of the Public Art Committee and requested that Council authorize the use of the Public Art money on two initial projects and to seek grant funding on behalf of the City for these projects. The first project would involve public school children art competition. She stated that the public art funds would be used to frame or build pedestals for winning art works to be publically displayed in the Municipal Building and in other City buildings. The second project would be to install uniquely Galax signatory statues, 6' fiberglass bass fiddles, at various public sites around the City. There would be a call for artisans to embellish, design or construct an artistic rendition unto the fiberglass bass fiddle. All submittals would be judged and winning artisans would be given a stipend to perform the work. The Committee requested Council's permission to use the Public Art money and to seek grant funding for these projects. The FY2013 budget has \$15,000 budgeted towards a public art project. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the use of the Public Art funding for these two projects, and to authorize grant applications for these projects, and designate the City Manager to execute grant document. 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, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker requested council consider an additional change to the revised Twin County E-911 Commission bylaws. Council accepted revised bylaws a few months ago; however an additional change was made to reflect how the counties select their commission member. The change is to

allow a “*County Administrator or designee*” rather than “*County Administration*”. This edition of the bylaws has been accepted by both counties at this time. Councilman Garner motioned to accept the Twin County E-911 Bylaws Revision. 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, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the Arts Council has requested they adopt a resolution in support of Empty Bowls Day on March 27, 2013. The event will be held at the Galax Presbyterian Church with proceeds going to Backpack Buddies and the Woods River Chapter of the American Red Cross food bank. Councilwoman Crouse 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, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker asked that February 11, 2012 be set as the date for a public hearing regarding a budget amendment for FY2013. He explained the intent is to bring to council grant awards, increased revenues, etc and reflect those in our budget. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to set February 11, 2013 as a public hearing regarding a FY2013 Budget Amendment. 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, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the appointments of Dr. Jim Adams and Stu Merdian to the Galax School Board expire on June 30, 2013. He requested that City Council set February 25, 2013 as the meeting where council can interview prospective candidates. Staff will run an ad seeking letters of interest for the appointment. Council would make the appointment at the March 11, 2013 meeting. The terms are for three years, effective July 1, 2013. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to set February 25, 2013 as the time when Council can interview citizens interested in being appointed to the Galax School Board. . 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, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Lauren Self spoke on behalf of the Twin County Humane Society and requested that the City, along with Carroll and Grayson Counties, hire a part time person to work at the animal shelter.

At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Vice Mayor Greene 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. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion.

At 8:40 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.



Kurt E. Baul
Clerk

[Signature]
Mayor



