

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

February 11, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 11, 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo. Councilwoman Plichta was absent.

Vice Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 28, 2013. Councilman Garner 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 Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

John Aldridge from Brown Edwards addressed City Council on the city's FY2012 Audit. He explained that the audit findings resulted in an unqualified opinion, which he explained is a clean report. He stated his appreciation for Mr. Barker and Mrs. Taylor-Gallimore for their cooperation. Mayor Mitchell asked that they pass along to their staff his appreciation for what they do to make the finance department successful.

This was the date set for a public hearing for a FY2013 budget amendment. Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Finance Director stated that the amendment will address some grant funds received, debt service changes, and other adjustments. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing. Hearing no comment Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing. Councilman Lazo motioned to approve the FY2013 budget amendment of \$359,517 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 Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker provided additional information that was requested by City Council in regards to the proposed urban archery program. The two questions that came from the public hearing were: Are crossbows permitted in the urban archery program and what were issues other localities experienced with errant shots, tracking animals across adjoining properties, etc? Chief Clark researched these questions and determined that crossbows are permitted with a special license purchased at the time the regular hunting license is obtained and localities contacted (Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Pulaski) have not had issues with the referenced items. Mr. Barker also addressed a couple of other key points which included that the season is limited to Sept. 1 through regular hunting season and only does (female deer) may be harvested. Councilman Garner stated he felt the major concern of the public was the threat of encroachment of the deer from one property to another. He also questioned the overall use of the program. Mayor Mitchell stated he had spoken to hunters and the most ethical kill shots were no more than 40 yards. Councilman Lazo stated there is an obvious need to for deer population control to help maintain homeowner's property and keep deer from over populating. Councilman Lazo motioned to proceed with the adoption and implementation of an urban archery program. 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-yea, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that a final version of the Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park (Hampton Property) Revenue Sharing Agreement was presented to them at the Feb. 14, 2011 City Council meeting, however staff cannot find that Council took action to approve the agreement. He requested council approve the agreement as presented. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to approve the agreement. 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 Crouse, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Edwin Ward, P.E. City Engineer asked to consider voluntary participation in a Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (VDH-ODW) Source Water Protection Program (SWPP). The SWPP was established to assist small community waterworks with the development of source water protection plans that will help to reduce the potential for drinking water source contamination. He explained that development of the source water protection plan is fully funded through VDH-ODW. An engineering firm, working under contract with VDH-ODW, will develop a SWPP using community and stakeholder involvement. Basic elements of the engineering firm's work in developing a SWPP will be providing water shed assessment, along with technical assistance and coordination of a local advisory committee. The advisory committee will be comprised of stakeholders including, but not limited to, local government officials, business owners, farmers and other interested citizens from Galax City and Carroll and Grayson Counties. The engineering firm will produce a source water protection plan under the direction of the local advisory committee and with final approval of City Council. City Council was not required to take any action at this time. He asked that council consider the program and action be considered at the next council meeting.

Brenda Marrah informed Council that Galax and CCSA received a \$500,000 ARC grant to assist in developing the proposed Woodworking Shop on W. Oldtown Street. In addition to this funding, Chris Shackelford has secured \$75,000 in community donations. She explained that their intent is to apply for a RBEG Grant from USDA for \$70,000 and seek the remaining funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission. City funds include the donation of the property and assistance with the demolition only. Operating funds for 2 years are included in the grant requests. City Council was not required to take any action at this time.

Brenda Marrah informed Council that the Galax Volunteer Fire Department has received FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant award for 23 sets of turnout gear pants, coats and boots and 30 self-contained breathing apparatus (air packs.) The amount requested was \$167,577. It has a 10% match of \$16,757; the amount of the award is \$150,820. Application has been made to other funding sources to help with the match. Efforts will be made to purchase the equipment as soon as possible in FY2014. City Council is not required to take any action at this time.

At 8:45 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 Crouse seconded the motion.

At 9:00 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, and Councilman Lazo -yea.



Kurt E. Bal

Clerk



Mayor

