

## GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

March 25, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on March 25, 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 Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo. Councilman Webb was absent.

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

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 11, 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 Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that Laura Romanowski, Executive Director for the Arts & Cultural Council of the Twin Counties, has requested that the City consider providing \$1000 in funding for additional work at the Carroll Waddell Stage. The funding would assist in purchasing material to construct permanent seating in front of the stage. The seating would be a dry-stacked stone bench in an arc, in between the stage and some smaller wooden benches built into the hillside. The benches would be of a density and quality to resist movement and damage and would provide seating for 80 – 100 spectators. Mr. David Hauslohner will provide all the labor and equipment valued at approximately \$1000. The project could start in April or May. He concluded that if City Council wished to fund the project, funds can be provided from the Building Maintenance line item (10.4106.6007) in the budget. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to approve the funding of the project. 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 Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that advertisements for the seat on the Mt. Rogers Community Services Board Appointment were posted and letter of interest were received from Bob Kirby and Rev. Helen Beasley. He asked that City Council make an appointment to the board or solicit additional interest. The term on the board is to fill the unexpired term of Tim Lewis through December 31, 2014. The board appointee would also be eligible for two addition 3-year terms. The board meets in Wytheville on the fourth Monday of each month at 1:00 PM and has lunch prior to the meeting from 12:00 – 1:00. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Bob Kirby to the MRCSB. 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 Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker updated Council on their vote in February to offer a resolution of support for DHCD to continue operating the Indoor Plumbing and Rehab Program (IPR) as it currently operates with locality approved sub-recipients. He explained that since that time MRPDC submitted a proposal to DHCD to serve as the IPR Regional Sub-recipient for Service Area One (PDCs 1, 2, and 3). LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau PDCs are both in support of MRPDC's lead role in this program. MRPDC has support letters from all of the existing service providers, and they are now

asking the localities to support their effort to maintain an IPR program that will include local government input. Through the program design that MRPDC is proposing, they will ask each locality to select their service provider (Rooftop, SERCAP, etc.) and provide information on eligible housing units. This program will not function without participation from our local governments. MRPDC has asked each member locality to consider adopting the attached resolution in support of their application to be the IPR Sub-recipient for Service Area One. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Bill Sturgill, School Superintendent provided a copy of the draft budget for the schools for council's review. Council was asked to set April 8, 2013 as the advertised date for the public hearing on the school budget. Council can then adopt and appropriate the budget at its April 23, 2013 meeting if approved. Mr. Sturgill will be present to answer any questions. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to set April 8, 2013 as the public hearing for the FY2014 Galax City School Budget. 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 Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that he has been working for a number of months with representatives from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to address the house at the New River Trail entrance in Galax. He met with Joe Elton, Director for State Parks, in February and discussed how to proceed with removing the structure. He explained that while funding is available in the state budget, the project can be expedited if Galax would assist in removal management. Mr. Barker provided a memorandum of agreement that would allow Galax to assist in removal of the structure and then be fully reimbursed by the State Parks. This would then allow the State Parks to proceed with a final grading plan to increase parking at the site. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Virginia State Parks for removal of the residential structure at the New River Trail State Park. 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 Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the FY2013 revenue from VDOT is approximately \$115,000 higher than budgeted for FY2013. The city is required to spend VDOT funds on overall road upkeep, maintenance, and equipment needs. Staff has reviewed year to date expenditures and the additional \$115,000 in revenue and would ask Council to approve the following capital purchases for FY2013.

CITY ESTIMATED	ITEM
CATEGORY ITEM COST	DESCRIPTION
Street 12,000.00	Air Compressor
Street 34,000.00	Skid Steer
Street 9,100.00	Z - mower
Street 25,400.00	One - Ton Pickup Truck
Street 25,000.00	Crew Cab Pickup Truck
Street 9,500.00	Equipment Trailer
Total 115,000.00	

The funds are to replace worn out equipment and to purchase equipment that will aid in street sweeping and cleanup. This is a budget amendment to Revenue Line Item 10.3240.0301 Street and Highway Funds and Capital Purchases 10.9900. (numbers to be determined). Funding and expenditures are revenue neutral. Remaining maintenance funds would be directed to replenishing our salt supply, additional road paint for traffic lines, etc. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the FY2013 Budget Amendment 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that he and staff met with City Attorney Jim Cornwell to review year to date charges in the city budget for attorney services. Currently the city operates under a fixed fee per month and revisited it for the next year's budget. The city is currently exceeding the monthly charges and expect an increase in fees for FY2014. Negotiating with Mr. Cornwell, he has asked that the city increase its final three FY2013 payments from \$10,000 to \$11,500 for a FY2013 increase of \$4,500. This will allow the FY2014 monthly rate to be \$11,000 for the year, which is within the city's projected budget. In addition to regular services, the City Attorney acts as prosecuting attorney for General District Court of Galax. Mr. Barker proposed the city amend revenue line item 10.3140.0101 Court Fines and Forfeitures from \$100,000 to \$104,500 (increase of \$4,500) and expenditure line item 10.1204.3150 Legal Services from \$137,000 to \$141,500. Current Court Fines and Forfeitures collections are at \$128,872 YTD so the city will finish above projected revenue for that category. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the FY2013 Budget Amendment as presented. 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 Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker updated council on the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance. Council was provided with mapping that has occurred to date, along with some traffic data. He explained that per state law, localities that allow golf carts may do so only on streets at 25 mph or below. Golf carts can only cross 35 mph streets, but may not cross streets rated at 45 mph. If consideration was given to approving a program City-wide, some areas are limited and would essentially be stand alone "zones" while routes would be available to other areas. He stated that some concerns are: High traffic areas may not be conducive or appropriate to golf carts even with a 25 mph speed, owners may still try to drive on 35 mph roads or cross 45 mph, safety equipment, or lack thereof, on the standard golf cart, signage (possibly on every street designated for golf carts), and enforcement. He recommended that the information be forwarded to the Traffic Safety Committee so they can review the current data, see where additional traffic county data is desired or needed, and if a safe and effective area or program can be developed. The program may call out what areas would be a good test area, how to pay for signage (registration fees), safety equipment for golf carts (seatbelts, lights), how to add additional streets, etc. Mr. Barker also noted that it may be worthwhile to see if VDOT would also offer to participate in this discussion. Per the Code of Virginia 46.2-916.2 B. The governing body of any county, city or town may by ordinance authorize the operation of golf carts and utility vehicles on designated public highways within its boundaries after (i) considering the speed, volume, and character of motor vehicle traffic using such highways and (ii) determining that golf cart and utility vehicle operation on particular highways is compatible with state and local transportation plans and consistent with the Commonwealth's Statewide Pedestrian Policy provided for in § 33.1-23.03:001. Mr. Barker noted that as this progresses through this effort that a safe and reasonable solution must be considered as the locality is required to consider the speed, volume and

character of traffic on City streets when allowing golf carts on these roads. He also stated that council consider offering Mr. Sam Patton an opportunity to participate in this discussion. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to forward this to the Traffic Safety Committee for work, and inviting Mr. Patton to participate in the discussion. 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 Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

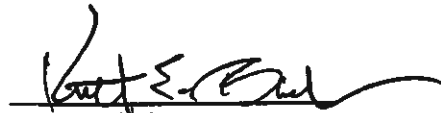
Mr. Barker reminded council that the first FY2014 Budget work session is planned for April 1 at 6:30 PM.

Mr. Barker reminded council that Russell Archambault of RKG and Associates will be at the April 8 meeting at 7:00 PM to present information regarding the market analysis he has performed.

Council adjourned at 8:10pm.



Mayor



Clerk