

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 28, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo.

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

Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 13, 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, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Mayor Mitchell opened a public hearing for the FY2014 Galax City Budget. The proposed General Fund Budget is \$18,293,072 and the total Utility Fund Budget is \$2,660,000. The proposed tax rates are:

- Real Estate - \$0.69 per \$100 (currently \$0.67 per \$100)
- Personal Property - \$2.25 per \$100 (no change)
- Machinery & Tools - \$1.50 per \$100 (no change)

Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing after no public comments were made. Adoption of the FY2014 budget will continue and be considered at the June 2013 council meeting.

Council was asked by Dr. Linda Lastinger to consider the possibility of constructing a dog park in Galax. This concept has been discussed with staff before, however no site was identified. The idea at this time is to consider a park in the area off of Glendale Road, across from the Municipal Golf Course. Costs of fencing, signage and other needed items would be raised through donations. Long term items such as mowing and maintenance would need to be discussed and an agreement developed for consideration if the project moved forward. Dr. Lastinger asked Council's permission to proceed with consideration and planning of the possible project. Councilman Webb made the motion to take the request under advisement until mowing of the property could occur and the suitability of the site determined. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion with the following affirmation of votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Council was asked by The Twin County Airport Commission to consider funding 1/3 of the cost of installing a portion of a new sewer line that would serve the terminal building under construction. They are seeking grant funds to connect the main sewer line to the Carroll County sewer system; however they need to install a portion of the line now to avoid digging up a parking lot later on. Costs are estimated at \$12,000 total with \$4,000 requested from each locality. Funding would be provided from the budgeted amount of \$53,000 for the Airport Commission from the City Manager Other Funding Category 10.1201.6014 to make up the difference. Councilman Webb made the motion to provide the requested funding. 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-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Galax Police Chief, Rick Clark, represented the Traffic Safety Committee which recently met and have made the following recommendations for the City Council to consider:

- Recommended lowering the speed limit along E. Stuart Drive to 35MPH from the eastern limits to Fries Rd/Lafayette St. This area sees traffic counts of 16,000 cars per day and is one of our more congested areas in town.
- Recommended that the speed limit from Fries Rd/Lafayette St be 45MPH to the western City limits. This area has a 45MPH traveling west starting at Fries Road and 35MPH traveling east from Waugh Drive. This would provide consistent speed limits on both sides of the road.
- Recommended making W. Stuart Drive 25MPH for its entire length. Portions of the street are 35MPH in residential areas.

After discussion, Council agreed to continue the study of traffic along Reserve Blvd. It was decided to change the speed limit from 45MPH to 35MPH from the intersection of Country Club Lane on East Stuart Drive to the eastern city limits. Also, it was agreed upon to change the speed limit on the entire West Stuart Drive to 25 MPH. The remaining recommendations are to be taken under advisement to allow Chief Clark to conduct further traffic counts. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve the speed limit changes and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Crouse. It was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene- yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilman Webb -yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Council was asked to re-appoint Bill Davis to the Southwest Regional Enterprise Center Board. Mr. Davis indicated his willingness to continue serving in this position. Councilman Garner made the motion to re-appoint Mr. Davis. 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-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk