

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

September 9, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on September 9, 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, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Webb, and Councilman Lazo. Councilwoman Plichta and Councilman Garner was absent.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 12, 2013. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene- yea, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker, City Manager, informed Council that the paperwork is being finalized which is required for the Rt. 58 Reserve Blvd. Safety Improvements Project. He stated that in order to submit the request to VDOT, City Council must authorize the City Manager to execute all required documents for the project. Mr. Barker asked Council to adopt the resolution that was presented authorizing him to execute all documents for the project. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to adopt the resolution. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea.

Michael Armbrister, Executive Director, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission was present to discuss the MRPDC, their mission, and services provided to the City and our region. No action was required of Council.

Galax Grayson EMS Chief Ron Passmore presented to Council a request to consider approval of the revised GGEMS Joint Services Agreement that was approved at that Board's August meeting. He explained to Council the revision concerns how locality funding is calculated. The current agreement calls out for locality funding to be split based on the percentage of calls during the previous fiscal year. The revision states that the locality funding will be based on this same method for the first three quarters, however the 4th quarter bill will true up the call percentage for the current operating fiscal year (including the previous three quarters). This will allow locality funding to be current at the end of each fiscal year. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the revised GGEMS Joint Services Agreement. Councilman Bill Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilman Lazo did not vote. He left Council chambers temporarily.

Vicki Hauslohner addressed Council on behalf of Judy Weigand who is requesting revisions to parking along East Oldtown Street. Currently there is no parking available for the first block of E. Oldtown Street due to the current traffic lanes. For a number of years this street served as the only left turn onto Main St, so there are 2 west bound lanes and one east bound lane. Ms. Weigand requested that this traffic pattern be altered to provide parking along E. Oldtown Street. A map of the current conditions was included in the Council packets. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to

refer this matter to the Traffic Safety Committee where affected departments (police, fire, and public works) can review the site conditions and make a recommendation to Council on how to proceed. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea.

Josh Fridley, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, was introduced to Council. Mr. Fridley's position is one of three funded by VDOT through the SRTS program. He spoke on his plans for the grant and upcoming items he is working on. No action was required of Council.

Keith Barker informed Council that Mr. John Nunn has requested financial support from City Council for a project involving converting of old Galax Gazette microfilms to a digital format. He said there are 44 rolls of microfilm at the Galax Library, but with a broken reader (\$12,000 to replace), there is no opportunity to actually make use of the microfilm. The 44 rolls of microfilm represent about 3300 old editions of the Galax Gazettes from the late 30s into the early 80s. They are in the process of having these microfilm rolls digitized and placed online in a searchable format that will allow anyone from anywhere to visit this website and search all 3300 issues of these old papers for a name, school event, family item, or anything else that may be contained in this valuable and only source of Galax History. Mr. Barker said that Mr. Nunn has undertaken fundraising as a volunteer and is spearheading the project. He told Council that Mr. Nunn also serves on the Library Board as the City representative. After a brief discussion among Council members, Councilman Lazo made the motion to make a \$2,000 contribution to the project. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Carl Call appeared before council with concerns of a neighbor on Deerfield Circle who may be operating a business from his home.

At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Webb to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia:

1. **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.
2. **Acquisition of Real Property, §2.2-3711 A.3 of the Code of Virginia** - Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.
3. **Consultation with Legal Counsel, §2.2-3711 A.7 of the Code of Virginia** - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation.

Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea.

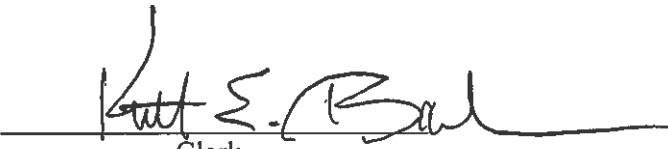
At 9:17 p.m., Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia Code section were discussed and no action taken, with the following affirmation: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 9:17 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

