

GALAX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
November 25, 2002

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on November 25, 2002, in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building. The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Greene at 7:30pm with the following council persons being present and they are as listed: Odell Hamden, Van McCarter, Willie Greene, George Valdez and Johnny Lemons. C. M. Mitchell and Sharon Plichta were absent.

Councilman Valdez prayed an opening prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Councilman Hamden motioned to approve the minutes as written and to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Councilman McCarter offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Hamden motioned to adopt the proposed trespassing ordinance which will allow real property owners to designate authority to the Galax Police Department to forbid others from trespassing. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

There was a discussion related to a water/wastewater rate increase. Councilman Hamden suggested that after further study perhaps the increases could become effective July 1, 2003.

Eddie Hines, E911 coordinator, was present at tonight's meeting to provide an update of the program and to request approval of the Commission's bylaws and the City/Commission agreement. Following his remarks, Councilman McCarter motioned to approve the Bylaws as presented. Councilman Lemons offered a second to the motion. Councilman Hamden asked if the City Attorney had looked at the two documents to be considered. Councilman McCarter withdrew his motion and Councilman Lemons withdrew the second. City Attorney Ward will review the Bylaws and the Agreement before they come before Council for approval.

Dr. Finglass had requested to address Council; however, she did not attend tonight's meeting.

Laura Bryant from the Galax Public Library was present at tonight's meeting to address how the state budget cuts are affecting the library and how she is dealing with the situation. Among other cost cutting measures she has cut staff hours and operating hours for the library. Councilman Hamden was very complimentary of the library and the staff.

Debbie Robinson, director of tourism, was present to discuss recent and current activities and events related to tourism. She also presented the 2002 Tourism Achievement Award to Council. This award was given by the Blue Ridge Travel Association of

Virginia.

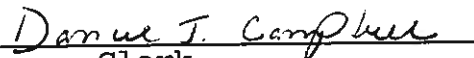
Councilman McCarter motioned to observe the holiday schedule as follows: City offices closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. City offices closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilman Hamden motioned to reappoint Roger Martin and Bob Wilson to another term on the BZA. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Hamden addressed, with much disapproval, the inaccurate press release by the EPA/DEQ as it applies to the settlement of a case related to the City's Clean Water Act Consent Degree.

At 8:06pm the meeting was unanimously adjourned on a motion by Councilman Hamden.


VICE Mayor


Clerk