

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2003
Minutes

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on January 27, 2003, at 7:30pm in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building. The meeting was called to order with all councilpersons being present and they are as listed: Odell Hamden, Van McCarter, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, George Valdez, Willie Greene and Johnny Lemons.

Councilman McCarter offered the opening prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Mitchell stated that this was the date and time duly advertised for a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed water/sewer rate increase. He stated that there had been no increase in twelve years and he explained that the reason for the increase was the operational deficit for the water/wastewater department.

Mayor Mitchell called for comments. One person asked if the increase was across the board for both residential and commercial accounts. She was told that it affected all city water users. Councilman Hamden commented that Council recognizes the hardship but that it has no choice.

City Manager Campbell explained that the rate increase is determined by the number of gallons of water used on a quarterly basis. He also stated that even with the increase the city's fees are still lower than other localities in the area and across the state. With no further comments, Mayor Mitchell declared the hearing closed and stated that the first reading of the proposed changes would be heard at the first regularly scheduled meeting in February.

The Carroll County PSA Water Agreement for Tower Road was presented for Council's approval. City Manager Campbell recommended that two minor changes be made to the agreement. Councilman Lemons motioned to approve the agreement with the recommended changes. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

After discussing the options that might be available in getting the Wonderknit property cleaned up, it was decided that City Attorney Ward would pursue one of the options that was discussed.

Councilman McCarter motioned to approve the 2003-04 Budget Schedule. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

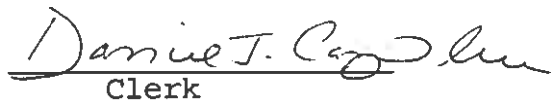
Chief Clark outlined a grant for Homeland Defense with the monies being used for updating communication equipment in the police

department, ambulance service and the fire department.
Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Chief Clark as the agent
for the grant monies. Councilman Greene seconded the motion.
Following a discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was
unanimously adjourned at 7:58pm.



Mayor



Clerk