

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 8, 2006

The Galax City Council convened in regular session in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on May 8, 2006 at 7:30pm. The meeting was called to order by the mayor with the following councilpersons being present and they are as listed: Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, George Valdez and Helen Kyle. Willie Greene was absent from the meeting.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Kirby motioned to approve the minutes as written and to dispense with their reading. Councilwoman Plichta offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Zoning Administrator, Keith Barker, reviewed three rezoning requests that the Planning Commission had received and considered; and, he stated the Commission's recommendation on each request.

1. The rezoning of 146 Camp Zion Road from R-1 to R-2 to convert the house into a duplex. Mr. Barker explained that there was a misunderstanding when the application was filed and all of the affected property was not included on the application. He stated that if Council takes no action the property owners can make a new application to have the request reconsidered. Following a discussion, Councilwoman Plichta motioned that no action be taken on this request. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.
2. Thomas Jennings Jr. of 503 Givens Street had requested that said property be rezoned from R-1 to M-1 so that he could construct a radiator shop. Mr. Barker advised that the Commission had received comments opposing the zoning change and that the Commission had studied the request in depth and recommends that the request be denied. Councilman Lazo motioned that Council accept and endorse the Planning Commission's recommendation. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.
3. Rhonda O. Dixon had requested that her property at 103 McCamet Drive be rezoned from M-2 to R-2 to allow the property to be sold as a single-family residence. Mr. Barker advised that the lot does not conform to the minimum size required under Code Section 160-32 and that adjoining property owners had requested that the property not be rezoned because it is in an industrial area. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the request to rezone the property be denied. Councilwoman Plichta motioned that the request to rezone the property at 103 McCamet Drive be denied. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell declared a public hearing open and called for comments on the Galax High School Literary Loan application. It is in the amount of \$4,750,000 for improvements and renovation to Galax High School. No comments were heard and the hearing was declared closed.

City Manager Campbell presented a resolution endorsing the Literary Loan application. Following a discussion, Councilman Kirby motioned that the resolution be adopted. Mayor Mitchell stated that he believes a good school system is a very important economic development tool and the building needs the proposed work. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the 2006-07 School Budget as presented. Councilman Valdez offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved. The total budget amount is \$12,337,701 which will come from local, state and federal funds. The local part will be \$3,694,885.

On a motion by Councilman Valdez, a second by Councilman Kirby and unanimous approval, a public hearing will be held on the proposed 2006-07 city budget at the next regularly scheduled council meeting on May 22, at 7:30pm.

City Manager Campbell discussed the purchase of the First National Bank building to be used for the proposed Chestnut Creek School of the Arts. Mr. Campbell advised that he will present the deed and other documents related to the purchase of the building at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

Police Chief Clark discussed the serious illness and retirement of JayHawk, the narcotics and tracking dog. He asked permission to acquire a replacement for JayHawk and explained that there is enough money in the narcotics account to pay for the new dog. He advised that the dog will cost approximately \$9,000 and asked that \$4,500 be approved now for a down payment for the dog. Councilman Kirby motioned to appropriate the money needed to get the dog. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Chief Clark discussed the need for a loitering ordinance. Following a discussion, a proposed ordinance will be presented for approval at Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mayor Mitchell discussed Business Appreciation Week and presented a proclamation declaring May 14-20 as Business Appreciation Week in the City of Galax. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the proclamation as presented. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Tokens of appreciation were discussed but no action was taken.

Mr. Campbell discussed a proposed Water/Wastewater Rate Study Agreement with the Mount Rogres Planning District Commission. This study is to be done by an outside

consulting firm in early 2007. Councilman Kirby motioned to approve said agreement. Councilwoman Plichta offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.


Tony Hatcher, a city volunteer, discussed the Walking Tour of the historic downtown area. He compiled a very descriptively written and pictorial guide for the tour. The City Manager and Councilman Valdez each expressed appreciation for his efforts on this project.

Erin Reidhammer advised of a new antique shop on Carroll Street called the Golden Gallery of Galax. The building will be painted a gold color and is owned by a couple in Germany.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned on a motion by Councilman Kirby and a second by Councilman Lazo at 8:34pm.



Mayor



Clerk

