

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
July 7, 2008

Galax City Council convened in regular session on July 7, 2008 at 7:30pm.

With this being the first meeting of a new fiscal year, three recently elected council persons were administered the Oath of Office and they are Robert Lazo, Sharon Plichta and William Webb. Judge J. D. Bolt administered the Oath.

This being the reorganizational meeting for Galax City Council, Clerk of Council Keith Holland called for nominations for Mayor. Councilman Webb motioned to appoint Councilman Mitchell to another term as Mayor. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell expressed his appreciation to councilpersons for electing him to another term as Mayor and stated that it is an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity. He then welcomed new council members.

Councilman Webb nominated Councilman Greene to serve another term as vice mayor. Councilman Garner motioned to close the nominations and accept Councilman Greene by acclamation to serve as vice mayor. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order. Vice Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mrs. Sue Greene from Rooftop of Virginia CAP introduced a group of youth who are working for Rooftop through the WAIA summer program.

Councilman Greene motioned to accept and dispense with the reading of the minutes from the June 9th meeting. Councilman Davis offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to accept and dispense with the reading of the called meeting on June 16th. Councilman Garner seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a yea vote of Councilpersons Lazo, Plichta, Garner, Mitchell, Greene and Webb. Councilman Davis abstained.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to appropriate the FY 2009 City Budget as presented.

Bryan Phipps from People Incorporated was present at tonight's meeting to discuss plans for developing a regional micro enterprise development program for the Galax-Carroll-Grayson area. The project is to help low to middle income entrepreneurs with funding to help get their businesses up and going. The funding will come through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Following discussion,

Councilman Greene motioned that the City Manager and Mr. Phipps move forward with the application and program requirements. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Police Chief Rick Clark discussed a recently completed report outlining improvements that need to be done for security at the Public Safety Building and in the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courtroom. Chief Clark advised that the improvements could be funded by the collection of a \$10.00 fee for criminal and traffic cases heard in the courtroom. A discussion ensued and input from Judge Bolt who said the fees and improvements were a win win situation. Councilman Lazo motioned to move forward with plans to initiate improvements with security at the Public Safety Building. Councilman Greene seconded the motion. A discussion ensued followed by unanimous approval.

By unanimous approval, Council Greene will serve on the Social Services Committee; Councilman Lazo-Parks and Recreation; Bobby Kirby the SREC Board; Councilman Webb- CLEO; Councilman Garner- District III.

Councilman Webb initiated a discussion on establishing a Personnel Committee but after discussion it was decided that Council should not be involved with personnel issues.

City Manager Holland discussed an ordinance, which incorporates into City Code all laws that were passed by the General Assembly during the last year. Action on this ordinance was carried over to the August meeting.

Eric Garrison discussed some issues he has with policies at the Animal Shelter. A discussion developed but no action was taken.

Ted Bartlett discussed problems with the new water billing policy for rental units. The new ordinance calls for each rental unit to be billed a set fee. The previous ordinance called for billing to be done by the number of gallons used and not the number of units on each meter. He stated that his renters are low income and that they cannot pay an additional amount of rent to cover the increase in his water bill. Following a discussion, City Manger Holland was asked to study some alternatives to the present billing system.

Mary Jane Carico thanked Council for working with her on cell tower issues.

At 9:20pm on a motion by Councilman Greene and a second, Council unanimously convened in an Executive Session §2.2-3711 A.3 of the Code of Virginia – Real Property.

At 9:45 Council returned to regular session. The Certification of Executive Session is a part of these minutes.

On a motion by Councilman Davis, a second by Councilman Webb to authorize the City Manager to negotiate with necessary property owners to acquire properties for public use

related to Bedsaul Hollow landfill and Mill Creek Sewer Project and to execute agreements under conditions. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:47 a unanimous motioned was made to go into executive session as authorize in the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 A.5 – Business and Industry Development.

Council returned to regular session at 10:03pm with no action to be taken. The Certification of Executive Session is a part of these minutes.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned.



Mayor



Clerk

**CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING**

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting Section 2.2-3711A.3 - Acquisition of real property for public purpose, the disposition of government owned property where public discussion would jeopardize the City's bargaining or negotiating position and Section 2.2-3711 A.5 - Prospective or expansion of business or industry where no previous public announcement has been made.

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, therefore be it resolved that City Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Upon motion by Councilmember Greene seconded by Councilmember Webb

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of number (1) or Number (2)? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgment it was a departure.

Subject matter N/A

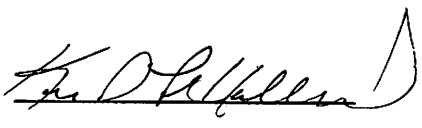
Departure N/A

Hearing no statement or statements, I call the question.

Ayes: Councilpersons Lazo, Plichta, Garner, Mitchell, Greene, Davis and Webb

Nays: None

This Certification Resolution was adopted July 7, 2008.



Clerk/City Manager