

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 23, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 23, 2011 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: Councilman Lazo, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse and Councilman Webb.

Mayor Mitchell prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 9, 2011. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

Council set this date as the public hearing for the FY 2012 budget. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comment. After no comments were made, Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing. No action was taken at this meeting. Council will approve the budget at the June meeting.

Council set this date as the public hearing for revisions to the sanitation ordinance. The proposed revisions to the City Code would provide a procedure to issue permits to qualified, insured and bonded private waste haulers to provide dumpster and hand-pickup services to commercial establishments within the City limits, and amend the solid waste collection services provided by the City to eliminate dumpster service and to require, when practicable, that hand-pickup within the City be limited to one pickup per week. The proposed ordinance would set limits on times when solid waste can be collected or set out for collection, and would further require that all permitted commercial haulers operating within the City deliver all solid waste collected within the City Limits to the Carroll-Grayson-Galax Regional Solid Waste Facility located in Hillsville, Virginia. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comment. After no comments were made, Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing. No action was taken at this meeting. Council will wait until the council meeting in June so it is adopted when FY2012 budget is adopted.

Council set this date to receive public comment on an ordinance amending the definition of "Poolroom" contained in Section 107-34(A) of the Galax City Code, to read as follows: "*A business or establishment where more than four (4) pool tables are available at a single location for use by the general public.*" The current definition applies to establishments with three (3) or more pool tables. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comment. Steven Nichols, owner of Sota Pops, a local establishment with pool tables in Galax. He asked that council considering amending the ordinance. He stated that his business provides positive entertainment for area youth and the addition of another pool table will allow him to offer more opportunity for tournaments. He stated that it would also help his business operate more efficiently, effectively, and financially. After no other comments were heard, Mayor Mitchell closed the public comment session. Councilman Webb motioned to adopt the ordinance revision. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

Brenda Marrah informed Council that the School Travel Plan for the 2011 VDOT SRTS infrastructure grant cycle has been approved and will now move to the next phase for consideration and possible approval. A resolution of support is required from the government agency sponsoring the application and serving as fiscal agent. Council was asked to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution as required. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

NEW BUSINESS

Brandon McCann from Cascade Highlands updated Council on use of funds from Galax.

Council was presented with a resolution recognizing the Galax Volunteer Fire and Rescue as an integral part of the official safety program of the City of Galax. This is required as part of the Line of Duty Act for Galax to cover the volunteer department. Pricing has been received from VRS and VML and will make a recommendation to Council at the June meeting on which program is felt to be in the best long term interest of the City. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance informed council that staff has been reviewing old records which have been stored in the Municipal Building and preparing to destroy or maintain these records per the Library of Virginia guidelines. She stated that they will obtain the services of Cintas, a document management company, to provide secure shredding of the documents which may be destroyed. The documents they have currently identified for shredding include paid tax tickets for fiscal year 2005 and prior. Per the Code of VA Section 58.1-3129, "The Treasurer may, with the consent of the governing body, destroy all paid tax tickets at any time after five years from the end of the fiscal year during which taxes represented by such tickets were paid, in accordance with retention regulations pursuant to the VA Public Records Act." She requested Council's consent to destroy paid tax tickets for the years stated above. Councilwoman Crouse asked if the tax tickets are logged into the current record keeping system, which Mrs. Taylor-Gallimore replied yes. Councilman Lazo motioned to approve the destruction of tax tickets as requested. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

Keith Barker informed council that a public information session has been set for Thursday, May 26 at 6:00 PM at the Rex Theater to introduce the Bottom Area project to the residents and business owners in this neighborhood. A beginning committee of staff and property owners has been developed and they are beginning the initial surveys that will help to determine the City's eligibility for this project. Craig Wilson of Community Planning Partners will be at the meeting to facilitate the discussion. This is not a public hearing but a meeting only as required under the conditions of the planning grant.

Keith Barker requested to formally set the City Council regular meeting schedule for June through October for the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, unless otherwise altered through public notification, and to further cancel the second monthly meeting usually held on the fourth Monday of each month during this same period. This would not prohibit special called meetings as allowed by law. The regular meeting schedule would be as follows: Monday, June 13, Monday, July 11, Monday, August 8, Monday, September 12, and Monday, October 10. Bi-monthly meetings, the second and fourth Mondays, will start back in November. It was requested that the August meeting be moved to August 15 due to the Fiddlers Convention being held on August 8. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the summer schedule. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

Keith Barker requested that City Council set June 13 as a public hearing for the FY2011 Budget Amendment. Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Dir. of Finance, will present a FY2011 budget amendment as part of meeting the auditor's requirements to address account overages or additions for the current fiscal year. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to set June 13 as a public hearing for the budget amendment. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

Ron Catron, Jim Adams, and Ruth Hall currently serve as members on the Planning Commission. Their terms expire on June 30, 2011. They all have requested that they be considered for reappointment for a new term from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015. Beth Worrell also submitted a letter of consideration for appointment. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to reappoint the current members to new terms. She stated that the experience and knowledge the current members have is very important to the Commission. Councilman Lazo agreed that experience is important, and expressed his sadness that Ms. Worrell would not be able to serve. Mayor Mitchell stated that the City is always looking for citizens willing to serve and thanked Ms. Worrell for her interest. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

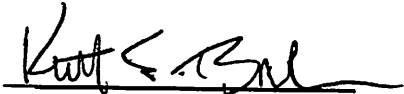
Roger Martin currently serves as a member of the BZA. His term expires June 30, 2011. He has requested that he be reappointed for a new term from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015. No other letters of interest were received for the BZA position. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to recommend Mr. Martin for reappointment. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea. Council's recommendation will be sent to the Circuit Court Judge, who will make the official appointment.

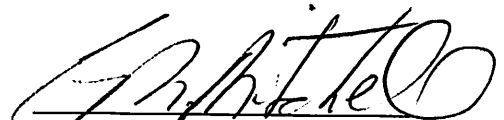
The Southwest Regional Enterprise Center (SREC) has requested that council name a representative to the SREC Board at the Crossroads Institute. Currently, Robert Kirby's term is set to expire on June 30, 2011. Mr. Kirby has attended 4 of the 7 meetings held in the fiscal year. Mr. Kirby has requested that he be reappointed. Councilman Lazo motioned to reappoint Mr. Kirby to the SREC Board. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the

following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb – yea.

At 8:25 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Garner to enter into closed session under **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. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion.

At 9:00 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: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.


Clerk


Mayor