

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
March 14, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on March 14, 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 February 28, 2011, and the called meeting on March 7, 2011. 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 Martin appeared before council requesting a variance from City Code Section 46-6 in order to keep a goat(s) at his property at 112 W. Stuart Drive (beside the Gazette) for a limited time in order to assist in some brush clearing and kudzu removal. Mr. Martin currently owns approximately 1 acre, however a much smaller area is actually the area where kudzu is located. Keith Barker stated that he had spoken to Jim Cornwell, City Attorney, in regards to this matter. Council cannot issue a variance, however his recommendation is that council take no action except to ask the City Manager and Animal Control Officer to work with Mr. Martin on a possible trial project. Staff would then bring back a recommendation to either consider amending the ordinance to allow a permitted process to allow this type of use to happen again or recommend that the ordinance be left as is. Issues to consider will be:

- Minimum parcel size to consider.
- Term or length of the permit.
- Written approval of adjoining land owners.
- How the animal will be contained.
- How many animals will be permitted.
- What will become of the animal at the end of the trial or permit period?

Councilman Garner motioned that City Manager Barker along with the animal control officer look into a trial project with Mr. Martin. 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.

Twin County Regional Airport Commission Chairman Tom Jones gave an update on the airport and its activities. He presented information on the Twin County Regional Airport expansion plans and possible prioritization of work. The Airport Commission has met on numerous occasions recently to look at expansion of the current runway to over 5000', construction of a terminal building and other possible projects. As a regional group, the Commission is researching to see if funding is available and how a long term debt service would allow the projects to proceed. Most funding for construction at the airport is matched by federal dollars on a 98//2 match and state projects on 80/20

match. Some of the proposed projects carry no match but have earning potential from rent. Total construction costs are estimated at \$9,460,000 with a local cost of \$1,258,000 shared among the localities. Rent and other income will help to offset a portion of a potential debt service. Mr. Jones stated that the expansion of the runway and proposed construction of the terminal building are critical with the development of the Wildwood Project. No action was required by council.

Chief Rick Clark of the Galax Police Department gave his yearly update on the Galax Police Department.

Keith Barker informed council that the City was recognized as one of the top 10 responders and participants for the Virginia Institute of Governments Email Broadcast Information System.

At 8:40 pm Councilwoman Plichta motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith E Barker

Clerk

Mitchell

Mayor