

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

November 12, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 12, 2012 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: Mayor Mitchell, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Webb, and Councilwoman Crouse. Councilman Lazo was absent.

Councilman Garner prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 8, 2012. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse –yea.

Keith Barker updated council on the Urban Archery Program. He stated that if Council wishes to pursue such a program, staff will need to have a request to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries by April 1, 2013 as well as any required public hearings. City Council may wish to review the document and at consider setting a public hearing to see if there is interest in such a programmer. Mr. Barker recommended a public hearing be set in order to solicit public opinion. Mayor Mitchell suggested that council hold a public comment in January. Staff will advertise as required closer to the January meeting.

Keith Barker informed council that two citizens, Ms. Cathy Parks and Mr. David Stone, have expressed interest in the Planning Commission vacancy. The vacancy is due to Ms. Ruth Hall moving outside of the City limits. Councilman Garner motioned to appoint Ms. Cathy Parks to the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse –yea. Councilman Garner asked Mr. Barker to inquire if Mr. Stone would be interested in filling a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Keith Barker informed council that staff has applied for a grant under the Department of Conservation and Recreation to assist in development of a stormwater control program to include development of an ordinance, staff training, equipment, etc. The city applied for and was awarded \$43,500 to develop the program by making use of consulting engineers. This program is mandated by the state with full implementation by July 2014. The proposal will cover assistance in developing the ordinance, developing required mapping, considering possible stormwater projects, and consideration of a possible fee structure to support the program. City Council was asked to accept the grant award and to authorize the City Manager to execute documentation as needed to proceed with the grant. Councilman Webb motioned to accept the grant award and to authorize the City Manger to execute the documentation as needed. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse –yea.

Tabled from the last council meeting, a discussion of the City's contribution to the Veterans Memorial was continued. Vice Mayor Greene motioned that the City pay \$7,000.00 towards the Honor Monument. Councilwoman Margo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse –yea.

Keith Barker informed council and provided information from Susan Williams, DHCD, in regards to a public comment period regarding planning district boundaries. DHCD is authorized to conduct public review of planning district boundaries to address needed or requested changes. The city is currently served by MRPDC, which covers the following localities: The counties of Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, Washington and Wythe; the cities of Bristol and Galax; the towns of Abingdon, Chilhowie, Damascus, Fries, Glade Spring, Hillsville, Independence, Marion, Rural Retreat, Saltville, Troutdale and Wytheville. Mr. Barker stated that he has spoken to Michael Armbrister, Interim Executive Director for MRPDC. Mr. Barker explained that the city has been well served by MRPDC and they have assisted with water/wastewater funding, development of the city's most recent comprehensive plan, project management services, etc. With Council's approval, he will send a letter requesting that no change be made in the MRPDC service area. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to have Mr. Barker prepare and send the letter requesting no change be made. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse –yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the Virginia Department of Health has notified the city that they are vacating the current facility on 730 S. Main St. in December 2012. They will be moving to the offices located at 502 S. Main St. once remodeling of space is complete. There will be no break in services to citizen during the move. Once they have vacated the current facilities, staff will assess the facility and provide possible future uses for the premises.

Brenda Marrah, Grant Administrator informed council that she is preparing a new application to Safe Routes to Schools for an additional round of funding and there is no match required for this round. The intent is to seek funding for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure:

- Infrastructure
 - Maroon Tide Drive and South Main Street pedestrian crossing: The first Safe Routes to School award will bring new sidewalk from the schools to Main Street from both Maroon Tide Drive as well as along McArthur Street. Staff will seek a designated crosswalk from Maroon Tide Drive across Main Street.
 - Improvements to the McArthur Street/Swanson Street/Circle Drive/Sunset Drive intersection traffic control signals and pedestrian crossings.
 - Sidewalk from Galax Elementary School on McArthur Street to Swanson Street.
 - Sidewalk from Galax Elementary School on McArthur Street between Front Street and Anderson Street and retaining wall.
 - A brick paver crosswalk across Main Street at Academy Drive.
- Non-Infrastructure

- SRTS Co-coordinator (part-time for 18 months) to assist in managing the project and coordinate development of walking/biking programs with the Galax Recreation Center and Galax School Systems.
- Development of a “bike library” where students can check out and use a bike during the weekends.
- Purchase of bikes and related safety equipment for the “bike library”.
- Funding to hire a consultant to assist in developing a Galax School Zone Plan with a uniform traffic control plan. This would look at traffic around the school system, assist in defining safety issues, set speed limits, recommend locations of warning signs, etc.

The application to VDOT is for approximately \$500,000. In order to proceed with the application, council is required to hold a public comment period for this grant application. The school system is also being asked to adopt the revised Galax School Travel Plan.

Council was asked to set November 26, 2012 at 7:30 PM as a public comment period on the funding opportunity and to consider adoption of the revised Galax School Travel Plan at that time. Councilman Garner motioned to set November 26, 2012 as a public comment period. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse –yea.

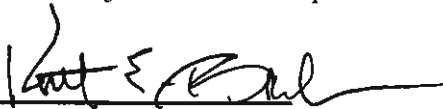
Keith Barker provided council with part of the documentation he received in regards to the basic rate revision from Comcast. This is part of their annual FCC review and takes into consideration operational costs, equipment, etc. The rate appears to be dropping \$0.16 from \$11.95 to \$11.79. No action was required from City Council at this time.

Russell Archambault of RKG Associates introduced himself to council. He will be conducting a retail market study for the City and will be back in 60 days to provide council with his findings.

At 8:05 p.m., a motion was made by Vice Mayor Greene, and seconded by Councilwoman Crouse 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, and **Legal Council, §2.2-3711 A.7 of the Code of Virginia** - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation.

At 8:27 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: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse –yea.

Council adjourned at 8:27 p.m.


Clerk


Mayor

