

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 14, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 14, 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 Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo. Councilman Webb 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 April 23, 2012. 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 Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

This was the date set by City Council to hold a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and have the comprehensive update public hearing. Mayor Mitchell opened the hearing for public comment. After hearing no comments, Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing. Ron Catron, Chairman of the planning commission requested a motion to recommend that city council adopt the resolution certifying the 2012 Comprehensive Plan. Jim Adams motioned to recommend and Roger Martin, seconded the motion. Members of the Planning Commission approved the by the following votes: Chairman Catron-yea, Roger Martin-yea, D. Jim Adams-yea, Jeff Sharp-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to accept the recommendation of 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 Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

This was the date set by City Council to hold a public hearing on naming Route 58/Reserve Blvd as one of the city's 6-year VDOT projects. Keith Barker updated City Council that in previous meetings they elected to reduce the scale of the Glendale Road project and the remaining funds were permitted to move to additional 6-year improvement projects in Galax. These included the Rt. 58/ E Stuart Drive lighting Improvement Project, Opticom, Downtown Traffic Signals, LED Traffic Lights, Rt. 89 Bridge Improvements and most recently the Meadow/Shaw Street Stormwater Improvement Project. He explained that he and Public Works Director Charlie Joyce met with the city's VDOT rep to look at this project on Rt. 58/Reserve Blvd. This portion of Rt. 58 was not paved during the large revenue sharing project with VDOT approximately 4 years ago and it remains one of our largest paving projects at over \$1MM. He stated that they feel that with the scale of paving needs, and other items such as guardrail improvements and tree removal along this route, this needs to become a priority project in our 6-year projects. VDOT has verified that the route would be eligible for the funds and the VDOT rep that visited agreed to the need of the project. Mayor Mitchell opened the hearing for public comment. After hearing no comments, Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing. Councilman Lazo questioned the need for removing the trees. Mr Barker explained that due to age the trees were starting to fall on the roadway, more so following any snow storm or high wind event. He explained they have reached their grown age and new trees would be planted to replace any that are removed. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to

adopt the resolution naming the Route 58/Reserve Blvd Safety Improvement Project to the city's 6-year plan allowing the project planning to begin with assistance from VDOT.

This was the date set for a public hearing for the Bottom Area project and possible alternatives due to portions of the project being located in the flood plain. This was part of the pre-hearing requirements from DHCD in the event the city is approved for funding. Mayor Mitchell opened the hearing for public comment. After hearing no comments, Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing.

Keith Barker requested that City Council set May 29 at 7:30 PM as the public hearing date for the FY2013 budget. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to set May 29, 2012 as the date for the public hearing for the FY2013 Galax City Budget. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker requested that City Council set May 29 at 7:30 PM the public hearing date for the FY2013 budget for the Galax City Schools. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to set May 29, 2012 as the date for the public hearing for the FY2013 Galax City School Budget. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker requested that City Council set May 29 at 7:30 PM the public hearing date for the Meals Tax Ordinance Revision. Councilman Garner motioned to set May 29, 2012 as the date for the public hearing to amend the meals tax ordinance, Chapter 135-24. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker requested that City Council set May 29 at 7:30 PM the public hearing date for the Lodging Tax Ordinance Revision. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to set May 29, 2012 as the date for the public hearing to amend the lodging tax ordinance, Chapter 135-51. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and is was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker and Edwin Ward, City Engineer updated council on a request from Twin County Regional Hospital to design and install an emergency water well system. TCRH and other hospital members of the Far Southwest Virginia Emergency Preparedness Commission have agreed to participate with a Federal HHR Hospital Preparedness Grant Program. The grant program is being administered through the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, which provides funding for the design and installation of an emergency use water well system. The proposed well system would provide a non-potable emergency water source that would allow the hospital to maintain operation of their HVAC systems and other non-potable water services in the event of an extended water loss event. Mr. Barker explained that a question of applicability arises with the city's recently adopted ordinance mandating that all new water services must be through the public water supply only. In speaking with the City Attorney, he stated there is concern on considering an amendment to the ordinance and how other businesses/industries may react. Edwin Ward, City Engineer, stated the value in working with TCRH to allow this project with certain criteria being established, such as

related to emergency management or essentially related to health care and public safety. Mr. Barker stated that if City Council agreed to proceed, an amendment to the ordinance to exempt other governmental, public schools, and health care institutional uses as approved by staff and/or City Council may be warranted. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to amend set a public hearing for May 29, 2012 at 7:30 to consider amending the ordinance to allow emergency well installations in governmental, public schools and health care institutional facilities that would provide essential emergency services for the citizens of Galax. 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 Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea

Keith Barker requested that City Council adopt a resolution naming GGEMS as the EMS provider for the locality. He has spoken with the city's attorney in regards to this request and he has provided a resolution naming the GGEMS and The Galax Volunteer Fire Department as the providers for those services in Galax. The intent of the resolution would be to recognize that the establishment and maintenance of those agencies are in the best interest of our citizens. If another agency wished to locate in Galax to provide EMS or fire fighting type services, they would need to appear before City Council with their request. The resolution would not prohibit mutual aid situations. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to adopt the resolution as present. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene –yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

The Commissioner of Revenue David Hankley has asked that City Council recommend to Circuit Court the appointments to the Board of Equalization. The Board will hear appeals in regards to the property reassessments conducted in 2011. Members must be citizens of Galax and have varied backgrounds including real estate, finance, etc. The Circuit Court actually makes the final appointments. The individuals being recommended for the Board of Equalization are: David Wilson, Sam Patton and William (Bill) Davis. Councilman Garner motioned to recommend that the Circuit Court appoint David Wilson, Sam Patton and William (Bill) Davis. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene –yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo.

Keith Barker informed council that Councilwoman Plichta's appointment to the Library Board expires on June 30, 2012. City Council may appoint another City Council representative to this board or elect to appoint a Galax citizen. Councilman Lazo expressed an interest in being appointed to the Library Board. Ms. Ruth Mattson has presented her resignation to the board effective June 30, 2012. Staff has placed an ad to seek interest in her unexpired term. Councilman Garner motioned to appoint Councilman Lazo to the Library Board with a term ending June 30, 2016. 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 Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Keith Barker reminded City Council that the next regularly scheduled meeting date is May 28 and the meeting is being rescheduled to May 29.

Council adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Kurt E. Spill

Clerk



Mayor