

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
August 13, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on August 13, 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, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo. Councilwoman Crouse was not present. Vice-Mayor Greene joined the meeting at 7:50pm.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 9, 2012. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea. Vice-Mayor Greene was absent from this meeting until 7:50pm.

Keith Barker informed council that the following documents and policies are required to be adopted for the Galax Bottom Revitalization Project. They include Local (Section 3) Business & Employment Plan, Non-Discrimination Policy, Residential Anti-Displacement & Relocation Assistance Plan, Fair Housing Certification, and Section 504 Grievance Procedure. City Council was asked to adopt the documents and polices as presented. Councilman Lazo motioned to adopt the documents and policies and presented. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea. Vice-Mayor Greene was absent from this meeting until 7:50 pm.

Keith Barker informed council that Chris Shackelford, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts has requested that Grayson St., from Main to Jefferson, be closed on September 22, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM for their annual “Fall Into Art” festival. This is part of their fundraising activities to attract families and the general public to the school in hopes in increase class registrations and encourage donations. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the street closure as requested. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea. Vice-Mayor Greene was absent from this meeting until 7:50 pm.

Vice Mayor Greene joined the meeting at 7:50pm.

Keith Barker informed council that Alan Caudell, Attorney, has submitted a street abandonment request on behalf of John Garvey and Virgil Hancock. The undeveloped street intersects Parkwood Drive between these two residences. Mr. Garvey and Mr. Hancock have agreed to provide a sanitary sewer easement as part of the abandonment, and details of the easement would need to be agreed upon as part of the recommendation to abandon the street. Mr. Caudell would request that the September 10, 2012 Council Meeting be set as the public hearing for the street abandonment request. City Council was asked to set September 10, 2012 as the public hearing for the road

overspending the line item; however this has not happened in the past. If it looked to be moving towards an overspending, staff would bring that to council during a budget amendment. City Council was asked to approve the Aid to Locality Reduction for FY2013 as recommended. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the Aid to Locality Reduction for FY2013 as recommended. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Keith Barker updated council as an information item only at this point that Judy Taylor-Gallimore has been working with VML/VACO in regards to possibly refinancing the city's debt service on the library and recreation center. Because of lower interest rates, VML/VACO can put these loans back out to the bond market with a reduction in payment and no additional length of payments. Savings in year one are \$40,000 +/- and approximately \$14,000 each year thereafter. The refinancing costs include bond council. A resolution and supporting paperwork will be brought to council in an upcoming meeting. No action is required of City Council at this time.

Keith Barker updated council on the Blue Ridge Veterans Memorial. The BRVM Project is moving forward and some scheduling of major milestones has occurred. In speaking with a contractor about setting the memorial stones, staff was told that the memorials need to be set prior to pavers being laid (the original intent had been to lay the pavers first). Because of this revision to the order of construction, North Carolina Granite Corporation has been contracted to provide and install the memorial stones at the BRVM by Veterans Day (November 12, 2012). The total cost to construct and install the monuments for this portion of the memorial is approximately \$45,000. The paver blanks have been purchased and are waiting for buyers/sponsors. Construction of the remaining foundations is almost complete and the site will be graded afterwards. Items remaining to be purchased include the larger honor monument, the POW memorial, the granite curbing and benches. No action is required of City Council at this time.

Keith Barker informed council that Jim Cornwell, City Attorney, has recommended the consideration of adopting an ordinance requiring cleanup of properties used for the manufacture of methamphetamine. The State of Virginia is currently passing costs associated with cleanup of methamphetamine labs over to localities, but passed new laws this year allowing a locality to pass these costs along the individual responsible for the lab. Mr. Cornwell recommended that council take the following action:

- Adopt the ordinance.
- Develop a policy in regards to Methamphetamine Labs and habitability under the Property Maintenance Code of the State of Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. This policy would condemn any property that has been the location of a meth lab and require the responsible owner to have a properly trained individual/company complete a remediation within 60 days. The failure to have the property remediated would permit the City to have the property remediated or removed at the owner's expense. Any individual or company that attempts the cleanup would be required to be properly licensed, have certain OSHA training, and provide documentation that the remediation was properly tested afterwards. The building official would then remove the condemnation notice.

The intent of the ordinance and policy is two-fold – to reduce the potential for the City to cover these cleanup/remediation costs and to prevent a property from being put back into service until it is properly cleaned up.

Staff would propose using \$7,500 from the Other Construction Projects (50.9900.xxxx) to provide the remainder of the required match amounts.

Projects	Budgeted	Required for Grant	Total Project Cost
Oldtown St. Sewer Design	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
Glen Ridge Water Design	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
BC Vaughan PER	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Trickling Filter **	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 75,000.00

This project was proposed as a 2-year project. The remaining \$20,000 match would be budgeted in FY2014.

He asked that council accept the awards, approve the match and designate himself, (city manager) with authority to contract with Mount Rogers Planning District Commission for grant agreements. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to accept the awards, approve the match and designate Keith Barker, City Manager, with authority to contract with MRPDC for the grant agreements. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

During the time allotted for public comment Michael Blackburn from Deerhaven Estates presented council with a few concerns. He stated his concern for lack of police presence in his neighborhood after numerous complaints of speeding, and children/teenagers walking on the road during all hours of the night. Captain Cox, who was at the meeting responded to Mr. Blackburn noting he would look into setting up the speed indicator and check with the officer assigned to that zone for additional patrols. Mr. Blackburn also recommended that Galax start a curb recycling program for residents. Mr. Barker noted that the city tried a curb pickup years ago which was not successful. Mr. Blackburn also requested that the pine trees on Cranberry Road be trimmed. Mr. Barker stated he would notify public works.

Sam Patton also presented council with his request that the city research the potential approval of allowing golf carts to travel city streets. Council requested that the city manager and staff review other localities ordinances and bring this information back to a future meeting.

At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Plichta 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.

At 9:05 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo –yea

Council adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

  
Clerk

  
Mayor