

Galax City Council  
Minutes  
February 24, 2014

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 24, 2014 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 10, 2014. 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing on the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance and no comments were made. A final draft for the proposed Golf Cart Ordinance was sent to Council in their packets for review. Mayor Mitchell closed the meeting and asked if there was a motion in regards to the ordinance. Councilman Webb made the motion to adopt the Golf Cart Ordinance. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

This is the date advertised for a public hearing on the conditional use permit of Dixon Construction Co. Inc. and their parcel 37-99, located behind 735 Glendale Road. Mr. Dixon was present and made his request to Council to rezone the property from R-2 Residential to B-2 General Business to allow the display and sale of manufacture/modular homes on this adjoining parcel. Keith Barker told Council the use is permitted on the 735 Glendale Road parcel which is zoned B-2, but Mr. Dixon wants the additional 50' x 175' lot for display. Mr. Barker told Council that the Planning Commission met on 2/18/14 and has made the recommendation to council that the rezoning be denied as the intended use is not suitable or conducive to the existing neighborhood, that there is no indication that the property would revert to residential use if the business relocated, and that there was no site plan submitted. A copy of the Planning Commission minutes were included in the Council packets, as well as the zoning packet provided to the Commission. Mr. Dixon presented to Council a site plan along with other documents related to his request. Keith Barker explained to City Council that they may accept the Planning Commission's recommendation, may reject the Planning Commission's recommendation, may ask Mr. Dixon for additional information and refer the request back to the Planning Commission for further review, or may table the item until the next council meeting. Councilman Garner made a motion to send Mr. Dixon's request to rezone his property from R-2 to B-2 back to the Planning Commission for review. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council about the Shaw St. Stormwater Project & 6 Year VDOT Funds. He said that we received bids for the Shaw St. Stormwater Project, however the low bidder was declared



non-responsive by VDOT due to their failure to meet the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for the project. He said that the contractor asked for and was given an opportunity to appear before a panel review to show their proof of efforts for obtaining the DBE goal, however no additional information was provided and the panel considered their bid non-responsive. Mr. Barker explained that the next low base bid is DLB Construction from Hillsville and they have met the DBE goal. Their bid is \$1,572,063 - which is higher than our estimate and budget. He noted that he has met with Judy Taylor-Gallimore and Charlie Joyce to discuss the budget and VDOT 6-year projects currently on our list with the thought of shifting those funds as needed to secure funding for this important project. He explained to Council that our current 6-year projects are:

Current 6-Year Priorities	Budget	Project Completion
Shaw St. Stormwater Project	\$ 574,653	FY2015
Reserve Blvd. Safety Improvements	\$ 1,145,571	FY2016
S. Main Street Bridge	\$ 129,000 (current)	FY2019

The current bid is with DLB, Inc. at \$ 1,572,063 and our overall engineering costs will be \$147,500 for a total project cost of \$1,719,563. Mr. Barker proposed moving funds from the Reserve Blvd. Safety Improvements and S. Main St. Bridge Projects as required to provide the additional funds as needed. He then explained that the final project budget for the Shaw St. Storm Drainage Improvements would be:

DHCD Funding	\$ 469,850
Current VDOT Funding	\$ 574,653
S. Main St. Bridge Project	\$ 129,000
Reserve Blvd. Safety Improvements	\$ 446,060
<u>FY2015 Galax Paving Funds</u>	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
Total Budget	\$ 1,719,563

Mr. Barker told Council that we would allot our FY2016 paving budget to the Reserve Blvd. Safety Improvements Project in order to have sufficient funds to complete that project. He noted that the S. Main St. Bridge project will begin receiving VDOT 6-year funding in FY2017.

Mr. Barker explained that there is the possibility of applying for and receiving matching funds from the VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds, which would be applied later, however it is our recommendation that Council consider amending the VDOT project budgets as presented. He said that this will allow us to proceed with what is considered one of our most significant projects. Mr. Barker told Council if we are able to secure funding from other sources, we can amend the 6-year budgets and reallocate funds back to the S. Main St. Bridge project and the Reserve Blvd. Safety Improvements Project. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to amend the VDOT 6-year project budgets. 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, Councilwoman Crouse -yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that he was contacted by representatives of the TCHS in regards to a grant application they are seeking through the Two Mauds Matching Funds Grant. He explained that this grant would provide up to \$5000 in matching funds for spay/neuter efforts for an organization. The discussion with TCHS has been for Galax to forward our remaining spay/neuter funds (approx. \$1800) to TCHS and they obtain the matching funds. He told Council that they would operate the program as we do with reimbursements to Galax residents after being presented with proof of residency and a bill for a spay/neuter procedure. We would refer residents to them for reimbursement and would have a website link put on our webpage concerning the program. They would provide



reporting as requested to the City. He said that the benefit to proceeding with this proposal is it would allow the funds to be leveraged and they would last beyond the current fiscal year. TCHS is also seeking funds from Grayson and Carroll to match the full \$5000 that is available through the grant. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the request as presented and permit the City Manager to develop an MOU with TCHS in administering the City Spay/Neuter Program with the allocated funds. 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, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Police Chief Clark informed Council of a taxi service request made by Mr. Roger Hodge. Mr. Hodge has made a request to operate a taxi service in Galax. Chief Clark explained that per City Code 140-5, City Council makes the final determination and approval/denial of a taxi cab license request. Chief Clark noted that he has reviewed Mr. Hodges application and his review is attached. Chief Clark said that Mr. Hodge intends to operate a single vehicle as his business and has provided proof of insurance and his license. Councilman Garner made the motion to accept the request for Mr. Hodge to operate a taxi service in Galax. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

City Council was asked by Keith Barker to consider adopting the Empty Bowls Resolution that was included in the Council packets. He explained that Empty Bowls will be recognized on March 26, 2014. Councilman Lazo made the motion to adopt the Empty Bowls Resolution. 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, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

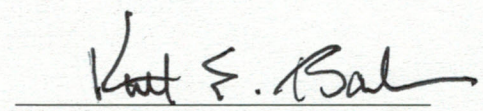
At 8:05 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Crouse to enter into closed session under Personnel Matter § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Councilman Lazo left at 8:10 p.m.

At 10:05 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 - yea, Councilwoman Plichta - yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 10:05 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Clerk



