

Galax City Council
Meeting
January 8, 2007
Minutes

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on January 8, 2007, at 7:30pm in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with all councilpersons being present and they are as listed: Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, John Garner, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Derrick Davis and Helen Kyle.

Councilman Davis prayed the opening prayer that was followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Police Chief Clark introduced a newly hired police officer, Jason Hawks. Mayor Mitchell administered the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

The Galax Police Department duly advertised this date and time for a public hearing to receive comments on an application to apply for funding from USDA Rural Development. Monies from this grant are to be used for public safety purposes – to purchase new police vehicles. Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing open. No comments were received and the hearing was closed.

Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Mayor Mitchell to a four-year term on the Regional Industrial Facility Authority. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Acting City Manager Barker provided an update on the Glendale Road Project. He outlined the three options that VDOT has offered. Following a discussion, it was decided that Council would like for VDOT representatives to attend a Council meeting to discuss the project.

Councilman Greene motioned to re-appoint Anne Vaughan to another four year term on the Planning Commission. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Acting City Manager Barker reminded Council that Disclosure Statements are due January 15, 2007.

Anna Catron, president of the Board for the Free Clinic of the Twin Counties, presented a program on the Clinic and the needs they have to keep to the Clinic in operation. A discussion ensued.

Judy Brannock, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce addressed Council with a request for \$1200. She is requesting this same amount from area localities to be used to hire someone to promote a Business-to-Business Expo. Following discussion, the request was taken under advisement.

Acting City Manager Barker led a discussion of the City's vicious dogs ordinance. He stated that he had discussed the ordinance with City Attorney Cornwell and that Mr. Cornwell advises that the ordinance should be repealed and rely upon the state statute or that the ordinance be modified so that it is verbatim with Section 3.1-79693:1 of the State Code. Following the discussion, it was decided that probably the best option would be to repeal the City's ordinance on vicious dogs.

Mr. Barker advised that an appointment ~~needs to be~~ made to the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Board. He advised that Ronald Sexton from the EMS Service or James Cox from the Police Department would serve on the Board if so appointed. Councilman Davis motioned to appoint Captain Cox to serve on said Board. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion. Councilman Garner questioned why all emergency services appointments go through the police department. He stated that the firemen don't like it. A discussion ensued. Councilman Kirby motioned that the appointment be tabled. The motion received unanimous approval.

Mr. Barker advised that he received only one RFP for the 2007 property reassessment and that was Wampler Eanes Appraisal Group. This group did the City's last reassessment. Councilman Garner motioned to authorize the acting city manager and staff to negotiate with the appraisal group. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Acting City Manager Barker advised that city staff is collecting data on deer and other animals in regards to accidents, roadside pickups, nighttime observance, congregation, etc. When complete it will be provided to the Virginia Tech staff to assist in developing a proper plan to address the deer problem in the city.

On unanimous approval of a motion offered by Councilman Kirby, Council entered into an executive session as authorize in the Code of Virginia under Section 2.2-3711A.1 – Personnel Matters.

Councilman Lazo motioned to return to regular session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis. The motion was unanimously approved.

A Certificate of Executive Session is made a part of these minutes.

Back in regular session a discussion ensued. No action was taken and the meeting was unanimously adjourned.



Clerk



Mayor

CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting to discuss personel matters for the purpose of employment in accordance with Section 2.2-3711A.1 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, therefore be it resolved that City Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Upon motion by Councilman Lazo seconded by Councilman Davis.

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of number (1) or Number (2)? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgment it was a departure.

Subject matter _____


Departure _____

Hearing no statement or statements, I call the question.

Ayes: Councilpersons Lazo, Kirby, Mitchell, Garner, Greene, Davis and Kyle.

Nays: None

This Certification Resolution was adopted January 8, 2007.



Clerk/City Manager

Certify

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