

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 10, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 10, 2011 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: Councilman Lazo, Councilman Garner, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb. Councilwoman Plichta was absent from the meeting.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 13, 2010. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker asked that Council consider appointing Administrative Assistant Lauren Clark as the Deputy Clerk. At the December 13, 2010 meeting, City Council adopted an Operating Rules and Procedures. Section 3.3 calls for the appointment of a Deputy Clerk who shall serve in the absence of the Clerk at a Council Meeting. Councilman Garner motioned that Lauren Clark be appointed as Deputy Clerk. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker updated Council on the Smart Beginnings Funding Request. He stated he has spoken to Ken McFadyen, Chairman of Smart Beginnings Twin County (SBTC) Leadership Council, in regards to the Smart Beginnings funding request presented in November by Co-chair Judy Brannock. Mr. McFadyen and other Leadership Council members from SBTC are looking at the current status of the initiative in relation to fund raising and project coordination. There is an upcoming meeting of the Leadership Council to complete the Articles of Incorporation, to begin applying for non-profit status and to review the work that has been done to date. Mr. Barker recommended that City Council hold off on funding the SBTC request until the non-profit status is underway and a progress plan is approved by the Leadership Council. Councilman Webb motioned to table the request until the non-profit status is underway as described by Mr. Barker. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Debbie Robinson presented information regarding the proposed HoustonFest event for May 6-7, 2011. This event will be held at Felt Park and make use of the new performance stage. No action was required by Council. Councilman Garner inquired about the budget for the event. Ms. Robinson stated that they had numerous sponsors along with donations that are continually being received.

Brenda Marrah was introduced to City Council as the Grants Administrator. Ms. Marrah is a Grants Professional Certified through the Grants Professional Certification Institute, a member of the American Association of Grant Professionals and brings many years of successful working experience with her. Ms. Marrah began work on January 3 for Galax and has begun working with

various departments to identify grants that will assist both in reducing operations costs and offsetting capital expenditure costs.

Keith Barker and Brenda Marrah informed Council that in a recent meeting with VDOT, they were informed that there is a Safe Routes to Schools Grant that makes up to \$500,000 available for providing safe walking and bike riding routes for students to schools. There is no local match required. They met with Superintendent Bill Sturgill and staff on this morning to see if this grant was possible to pursue this year and identify possible uses. The grant does require public input so they asked council to consider setting January 24, 2011 at 7:30 PM as a time to receive public comment on this opportunity.

Keith Barker informed Council that staff is beginning to review the traffic signal issues on Jefferson St. and Lafayette St. that were brought up at the December 13, 2010 meeting. In beginning the process, it was noted that a council member is needed as a representative on the Traffic and Safety Committee. Meetings are called meetings only and typically at noon. Councilman Webb, Lazo, and Garner all volunteered to serve on the committee. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned that Councilman Webb serve on the committee. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea. Councilman Garner and Lazo will serve as designated alternates.

Information was presented to Council in regards to the Twin Counties Empty Bowls Project proposed by the Twin County Arts Council. The project will hold 3 fundraisers where bowls that can be made at the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts Oldtown Pottery will be used as part of a fundraising effort to provide supplies for local food pantries. The request from the Arts Council is that the City Council adopt a resolution setting March 30, 2011 as Galax Empty Bowls Day. Councilman Lazo motioned that council adopt the resolution. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker presented council with a draft budget calendar for the FY 2012 Budget. He noted that if council approves this calendar, staff will begin the budget process this week. Council was asked to note that they are not proceeding with the full Capital Improvement Plan process this year but instead will seek to define a more limited scope of capital improvements within the budget itself. He explained that he has not scheduled meeting dates on regular Council meeting nights in order to give staff more time to address questions between the budget meetings. This may require that the first and second meeting's be a bit longer, however they have the ability to schedule an additional meeting at a later date. As was done last year, City Council has appointed Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner to act as a budget committee with the City Manager and Director of Finance throughout the budget process. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the FY 2012 Budget Calendar. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker asked that the following holidays called out in the city handbook be approved so they can set advertisements for the year. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the dates as stated. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes:

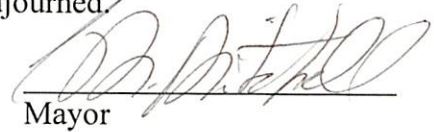
Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date of Holiday</u>	<u>Date Observed</u>
Martin Luther King Day	1/17/2011	1/17/2011
Presidents Day	2/21/2011	2/21/2011
Memorial Day	5/30/2011	5/30/2011
July 4th	7/4/2011	7/4/2011
Labor Day	9/5/2011	9/5/2011
Veterans Day	11/11/2011	11/11/2011
Thanksgiving	11/24/2011	11/24/11 & 11/25/11
Christmas	12/25/2011 (Sun.)	12/23/10 & 12/26/11
New Years	1/1/2011 (Sun.)	1/2/2012

At 8:23 p.m Councilman Webb motioned for the meeting to be adjourned.



Clerk



Mayor