

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
January 11, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 11, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:30 Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following council persons present and they are as listed: Councilman Lazo, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Davis and Councilman Webb.

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

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 14, 2009. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

A public hearing was held to receive comment on a zoning request from William Alfred and Mary Lee Howlett. This is a request to rezone their property at 310 S. Main Street from R-2 Medium Density Residential to B-2 General Business in order to operate a law office out of the existing structure. The current structure currently serves as a single family residence. The Galax Planning Commission met on January 6 and made the recommendation that City Council approve the rezoning request from R-2 to B-2. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comment. After no comment was received Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the zoning request. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Billy Robinson, Senior Associate - Brown, Edwards & Company, L.L.P. – presented the audit report to council. He thanked the city for its cooperation during the audit and stated that it was completed by November 30, 2009. A copy of the financial report was presented to Council prior to the meeting. Mayor Mitchell stated that he appreciated Mr. Robinson and Brown, Edwards & Company for their work.

Keith Baker asked that Council approve the proposed budget calendar for the FY 2011. He stated that if council approves this calendar, the process can begin this week. He asked Council to note that we 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. No meeting dates have been scheduled on Council meeting nights in order to give staff more time to address questions between the budget meetings. He stated that this may require that the first and

second meetings be a bit longer, however we have the ability to schedule an additional meeting at a later date. Councilman Davis motioned to approve the proposed budget calendar. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker updated Council on the VRA Loan. A resolution, which was included in their packet, is the final requirement of VRA and formalizes that obligation in regards to budget amendments and appropriating operating deficiencies prior to the end of a fiscal year. He informed Council that they can adopt this resolution at this meeting or we can ask for revisions and approve this at the next council meeting. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the resolution. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker asked Council to award Ramey, Inc. the contract for work on the Shaw/Stanley Street Sewer project. A portion for the VRA Loan was obtained for work on the Shaw/Stanley Street Sewer Project. The project is to replace over 4000 l.f. of substandard sewer line, replace/install 35 manholes, 2 road borings, and other miscellaneous work. As funding has been received, we would ask council to award Ramey Inc. the contract for \$747,578.00. The engineer will issue a Notice to Proceed to the contractor after all final paperwork is complete. Councilman Webb motioned to issue the Notice to Proceed to Ramey, Inc. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker asked that Council approved the 2011 City Calendar due to the number of holidays that are observed which fall on weekends this year. Because we notify the public of days we are closed, he asked that the following holidays called out in the City handbook be approved.

Holiday	Date of Holiday	Date Observed
Martin Luther King Day	1/18/2010	1/18/2010
Presidents Day	2/15/2010	2/15/2010
Memorial Day	5/31/2010	5/31/2010
July 4th	7/4/2010 (Sun.)	7/5/2010
Labor Day	9/6/2010	9/6/2010
Veterans Day	11/11/2010	11/11/2010
Thanksgiving	11/25/2010	11/25/10 & 11/26/10
Christmas	12/25/2010 (Sat.)	12/23/10 & 12/24/10
New Years	1/1/2011 (Sat.)	12/31/2010

Councilwoman Plichta stated that she would like to see the city observe the same holidays as the surrounding counties. Councilman Garner stated this issue has been discussed before and was not passed by Council. Councilman Davis motioned to approve the holidays for 2010. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea,

Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea, Councilwoman Plichta –no.

Keith Barker informed Council that the New River Highlands Resource Conservation and Development Area is requesting an appointment to the NRH RC&D Council for 2010. Over the last number of years, Galax has not received any specific projects from this board that we are aware of except for a regional study to reduce wildfires, however we have not been able to attend meetings on a consistent basis. We fund this program with \$700 from our City Budget each year. Terry Atwell currently serves as our Erosion and Sediment Control Program Administrator and Inspector. The recommendation would be to have Terry represent Galax on this board for 2010 as it is more in line with his current duties. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Terry Atwell to the NRH RC&D Council for 2010. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 8:25 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Davis to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Webb.

Mayor

Clerk