

GALAX CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes
January 22, 2001

The Galax City Council convened in regular session in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on January 22, 2001. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:40 pm with the following councilmen present: C.M. Mitchell, Glenn Wilson, Van McCarter, Willie Greene and Johnny Lemons. Councilmen Dickerson and Hamden were absent from the meeting.

Councilman Wilson motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as distributed. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time properly advertised for two joint public hearings between Galax City Council and the Galax Planning Commission. Planning Commission members present for the hearing were Ron Catron, C. M. Mitchell, Roger Martin, and Jim Adams. Mr. Catron advised that the two hearings were to consider changing the zoning on two pieces of property: 1) Jerry Shupe and Duard Burnett parcels on Hanes Road from R-3 to B-2 to allow for the construction of a hair salon 2) Ralph and Clara Ward parcel at 101 Taylorwood Road from R-1 to B-2 to allow for the construction of a professional office. Following his review of the public hearing process he opened the first hearing to consider the Shupe/Burnett request. Mrs. Lawson stated that her hair salon was going to have to relocate from its present location due to the widening of Glendale Road which would take her parking area. She would like to construct a building for her business on the Hanes Road property. No other comments were received and Mr. Catron declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Catron addressed the public hearing to receive comments on the request from the Wards to change the zoning on their Taylorwood Road property from R-1 to B-2 to allow for the construction of a professional office building. Mrs. Ward stated that because the property is located near Route 58 they believe the best use of the property would be a building for professional offices. Mr. Catron advised that he was in possession of the petition that the Taylorwood residents had signed which requested that the zoning change not be made. With these acknowledgements, Mr. Catron opened the public hearing.

Larry Spangler stated that the area was an old well established neighborhood and should remain R-1. Doris Bedwell stated that she had lived in the neighborhood for 30+ years and that it had been a safe neighborhood. Because of businesses on East Stuart Drive and an access road off of East Stuart the area is becoming congested. She believes an office building would cause further congestion which will create more problems. Mrs. Lovelady expressed her thoughts on the congestion problem and asked that the zoning remain as it is. Mrs. Gordon Dillon has lived in the neighborhood for many

years and doesn't want a business brought into the neighborhood. She stated that a building would crowd the resident whose property adjoins said parcel and detract from the entrance to the neighborhood. Mr. McKnight commented that there is too much traffic for the neighborhood now and this would just increase the problem. An unidentified resident of the neighborhood expressed his concerns relating to property devaluation and more high intensity street lights. Clark Fincher asked that the voices spoken be respected and not change the zoning. A lady from the neighborhood stated that she believes the change would create spot zoning. Janis Kurtz stated that she does not believe that a change in zoning would be in the best interest of the community. Tom Peddy requested that the zoning remain R-1. No other comments were offered and Mr. Catron closed the public hearing.

A lady from the Hanes Road area stated that she would like to see a new building constructed for the beauty salon on the Hanes Road property.

Mr. Catron advised that the Planning Commission would be meeting on Tuesday, January 30 at 8 am to consider both public hearing requests for recommendations to council.

This was the date duly advertised to receive public comments on naming the recreation center the A. Glenn Pless Recreation Center. Mr. Worth Higgins stated that he could think of no one more deserving of the honor and that it would be most appropriate. Mr. Campbell advised that he had received five correspondences relating to the change. Four of the letters came from people who wanted the change. One person asked that the name be left as it is. Councilman McCarter motioned to change the name to the A. Glenn Pless Recreation Center. Following a discussion, and additional comments from Roger Martin, Councilman McCarter withdrew his motion and made a new motion to delay action on the name change until further study can be done. Councilman Wilson seconded the motion. Mayor Mitchell asked Councilman Lemons, City Manager Campbell and Parks and Recreation Director Nelson to serve on a committee to study the matter. Councilmen McCarter, Wilson, Mitchell and Greene approved Councilman McCarter's motion. Councilman Lemons opposed the motion.

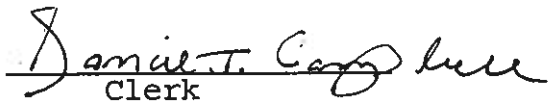
Carried over from the last meeting was a request from the library committee to borrow money until all the pledges are received. Ms. Bryant, library director, was present to give an update on the amount of pledge money, that has been received and that which is still outstanding. She also discussed the cost of furnishings. She advised that the amount of money needed is \$347,084.00. This will complete the construction and provide adequate furnishings which will be bought at state contract price. Following discussion, Councilman Lemons motioned to make a no interest loan in the amount of \$347,084.00. Councilman Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Police Chief Melton appeared before Council to request that the

dance hall ordinance in the City Code be updated. This would allow the city to have more control over dance halls. Following a discussion, Councilman Wilson motioned to draft an updated ordinance. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Chief Melton, Councilmen Greene and Wilson will compose the proposed ordinance.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned on a motion offered by Councilman Wilson at 8:35pm.


Mayor


Clerk

