

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Meeting
January 23, 2006
Minutes

The Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on January 23, 2006, at 7:30pm. The meeting was called to order by the mayor with the following councilpersons being present and they are as listed: Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene and Helen Kyle. George Valdez was absent from the meeting.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Kirby motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as written with one correction; and, that was to correct the incorrect spelling of Mr. Catron's name in paragraph five of the first page. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell asked that the agenda be amended so that Police Chief Clark could present his annual report.

Chief Clark said it is an honor to present the twenty-four police officers that meet and exceed the state mandates as the department continues to grow and emerge as a leader in law enforcement on a regional and statewide basis. He advised that the department is fully accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission and that the City is a Certified Crime Prevention Community – one of twelve in the Commonwealth.

He summarized all the calls the department had received in 2005. He also recognized each officer who had distinguished him/her self in performing department duties.

Mayor Mitchell offered congratulations to the police department and they were also applauded.

Zoning Administrator Barker reported that the Planning Commission had considered the zoning change request at 205 Cranberry Road. The request was to change the zoning from R-2 to B-2. Upon consideration of the request it is the recommendation that the zoning be changed from R-2 to B-1, which is more appropriate for the surrounding area. Councilman Lazo motioned to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved. Councilman Lazo questioned if he has plans for the property. Mr. Barker replied that he knows of no specific plans at this time.

Corbin Stone, manager of the firm who does the City's audit, was present at tonight's meeting to review the city's audit for 2005. He advised that the audit went very well and the City's fund balance is healthy.

A discussion ensued about the water and sewer rates. City Manager Campbell advised that the City is in the first cycle of the revised billing and fees.

Councilman Greene motioned to accept the audit report as presented. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell advised that he is no longer eligible to serve on the Mt. Rogers Community Services Board. Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Councilwoman Plichta to a three-year term on said Board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kirby and unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell advised that Dr. Clemons term on the IDA is expiring. A discussion ensued but no action was taken.

City Manager Campbell discussed a Virginia Community Development Block Grant Planning Grant. The amount is approximately \$25,000 and is specific to downtown.

At 8:35pm on a unanimously approved motion by Councilpersons Greene and Plichta, members of Council convened in an executive session as authorized in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) – Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made.

Councilman Lazo motioned to return to regular session. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The City Manager was authorized to discuss and pursue local incentives in order to work with industry.

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

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:15pm.


Mayor


Clerk

**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 a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) 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 Councilwoman Plichta seconded by Councilman Greene.

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 _____

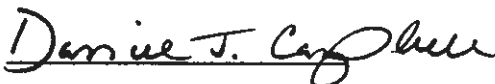
Departure _____

Hearing no statement or statements, I call the question.

Ayes: Councilpersons Lazo, Kirby, Plichta, Mitchell, Greene, and Kyle.

Nays:

This Certification Resolution was adopted January 23, 2006.



Clerk/City Manager



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