

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 24, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 24, 2011 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:37 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 Webb prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Garner motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 10, 2011. 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.

City Council set this time to receive public comment on the proposed Safe Routes to School grant application. The intent is to apply for grant funds to address the bus entrance and drop off area on MacArthur Street, to begin the planning for improvements to the sidewalk from the Galax Elementary School to the Galax Middle School, to begin planning on a sidewalk design from Galax Middle School to Main Street (along Maroon Tide Drive) and to begin development for community participation that would promote and encourage walking and biking to school. All described projects are an area of concern for the school system due to children crossing bus traffic and due to safety issues with substandard or non-existent sidewalks. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. After none was made, Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator explained that there is no match for the grant, which can be a three year grant, totaling \$500,000.00 a year. No action was taken.

Keith Barker provided council a copy of the press release for funding of the Wildwood Commerce Park by the Virginia Tobacco indemnification Committee. This funding will allow utility designs, engineering, roadwork, etc. to be built to the optioned 167 acres that the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority has optioned to purchase. Members of BRCEDA are also working on holding a public session where they can explain the project and its potential to our region. They would also look to invite potential partners such as USDA, VEDP, DHCD, etc. to explain their view of the project and what they will be able to assist with. Details are still being developed for this event and will be forwarded to Council when they are finalized. No action was needed.

Keith Barker informed Council that Brenda Marrah has identified a Pet Sheltering Grant that would allow for the purchase of a regional mobile pet sheltering equipment cache. The cache is primarily a 7x16 cargo trailer with a small generator, 55-70 folding kennels and supplies. It is a no-match grant but requires two or more localities to partner. Galax will act at the lead partner with Carroll and Grayson Counties as the other participants. The submitting partner is required to have an animal response plan, or annex, that addresses the evacuation and/or sheltering of companion animals and pets. The animal response plan is usually an appendix to an Emergency Operations Plan. Council was provided with an Animal Shelter Annex with appendixes that will be added to the City's Emergency Operations Plan with council approval. Chief Clark is currently updating the current

Emergency Operations Plan. Councilman Garner motioned to adopt the animal response plan. 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 informed council that the New River Highland RC&D has requested that we confirm our current appointment to their board. He asked council to consider re-appointing Terry Atwell, Building Official, to that position. Councilman Garner requested that the attendance of all city employees who are on boards/commissions be tracked. Councilman Lazo motioned to re-appoint Terry Atwell to the NRHRCD. 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.

In provided correspondence, Susan Clark, Director of Social Services, asked that City Council appoint Elizabeth Vaughan to the Community Policy and Management Team as the Parent Representative. The CPMT, the administrative body of the Comprehensive Services Act, includes human service agencies representatives and local government representatives as well as a parent representative. This body addresses at risk children and their families. The children may be subjected to abuse and neglect and are at risk of removal from their homes. The parent representatives bring a perspective which can be presented from the parent. This body oversees the administrative functions of the Act including expenditures, service delivery, coordination of services, and the availability of services. Vice-Mayor Greene is the City Council representative. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to appoint Elizabeth Vaughan as requested. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and is 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 informed council that Donna Garland's term on the Galax School Board is June 30, 2011. He asked that City Council set February 28, 2011 as the meeting where council can interview prospective candidates. Staff will run an ad seeking letters of interest for the appointment. Council would make the appointment at the March 14, 2011 meeting. Councilman Lazo motioned to set the date of February 28, 2011 as requested. Councilman Garner seconded the motion 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 Lazo read an excerpt from an article titled "Funding the arts funds our future". He enforced that smart companies bring smart people and the need for a thriving art community is now more than ever.

At 8:15 p.m Councilman Garner motioned for the meeting to be adjourned.


Mayor

Clerk