

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

February 28, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 28, 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: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb. Councilman Lazo was absent.

Vice-Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 14, 2011. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that this is the date that City Council set to interview school board applicants for the term of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014. One letter of interest, from Donna Garland was received. Ms. Garland spoke briefly to Council asking that they reappoint her to the School Board. Councilman Webb motioned that Ms. Garland be reappointed. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Superintendent Bill Sturgill spoke to Council asking that they consider amending the FY11 School Budget. He explained that the requested changes represent a decrease in the overall budget and requires no additional local money. Mr. Sturgill stated that a decrease in students will be absorbed in the amended budget. The original budget was built on a larger number of students than are currently enrolled. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to approve the budget amendment as proposed. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council of a public informational session that Ken McFadyen, BRCEA Director, will hold on the Wildwood Project and its potential for our region on March 1, 2011 at 5:00 PM at Crossroads.

Keith Barker reminded Council of the joint meeting with Carroll and Grayson Counties regarding the Wildwood Project on March 7, 2011 at 6:30 at Crossroads with the Boards of Supervisors for Carroll County and Grayson County. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the project regionally and look at possible financing options.

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has requested that March 14-20, 2011 be proclaimed MS Awareness Week. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to proclaim March 14-20, 2011 be proclaimed MS Awareness Week. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-

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

Keith Barker asked that Council consider the possibility of having a large item spring cleanup. While not originally included in the budget and not held in 2010, he stated that there appears to be an opportunity for Public Works staff to hold the cleanup beginning March 21. The main incurred costs are fuel and tipping fees as personnel and equipment are anticipated in the current budget and open during this time period. As the City received funding from DEQ in the form of a Litter Grant, he feels that those funds can be used to offset costs incurred during the cleanup. With Council's approval, staff would propose advertising the cleanup for March 21 through March 25. If additional days are needed, staff will work into the following week. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the large item pickup. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker proposed that the City begin a Volunteer Litter Cleanup Program. The program will use a portion of the Litter Grant to fund local non-profit groups that would perform roadside cleanups that are similar to the Adopt-a-Street program. In the past the City has purchased and distributed educational materials for handout to children at local festivals; however this is proposed as an alternative and perhaps will be more impactful to youth and others when they can see both the results of their efforts and how damaging littering can be to our community. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to approve the program. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that a notice was included in the latest water bill notifying customers of approved ways to dispose of medical needles. Customers have also been asked to make use of approved size cans (32 gallons) or cans that work with the lifting mechanisms on the garbage trucks. Staff will continue to work with all customers on the awareness of these issues.

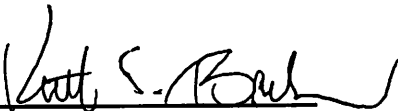
Keith Barker informed Council that there are a number of board appointments that are expiring in June including 3 on the Planning Commission, 1 on the Board of Zoning Appeals, 3 on the Recreation Board, 1 on the Library Board and 3 on the IDA. Staff will begin running ads to seek interested citizens in the board appointments and bring those back to council over the next few months. The Board of Zoning Appeals is a recommendation to the Circuit Court and is actually approved by the Circuit Court Judge. No action was required by Council.


Keith Barker informed Council that The Twin County Chamber of Commerce and The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce are hosting Senator Mark R. Warner on March 12, 2011. The location and time will follow and we will pass this information along as soon as we receive it.

Joe Snyder appeared before Council to voice his concern over the Wildwood Project. He stated he was concerned over, what he felt was a lack of transparency within the project. He felt the upcoming meeting has not been advertised enough. He also said he has not seen any marketing plans. He questioned the localities division of loan payments and how it would affect tax payers. His main concern was there seemed to be very little information given to the public, and he felt that Council was not doing their part to stay informed of the project. Mayor Mitchell stated that Council had been apprised of the project over a year ago and has stayed informed of the process. He stated that Galax is land locked and having this opportunity to bring business and industry to the area is

important. Vice Mayor Greene addressed Mr. Snyder and reminded him that they (council members) also pay the same taxes of city residents. He stated that council is very aware of what is going on and they are constantly in contact with Keith and others when it comes to projects and other agenda items. Keith Barker mentioned the grant opportunity for the project, to include research and marketing. He stated that the board has been targeting food industries and auto-type industry for the location. Councilwoman Crouse also stated that with this piece of property already cleared that it will hold a higher interest to prospective industries. Keith Barker stated that since the area is cleared and pad ready it will also bring more interest for potential business. Vice Mayor Greene reminded Mr. Snyder that Keith Barker and Mayor Mitchell sit on the BRECDA board, and as council members they have to be careful that no more than 2 members are on the same board, as it would constitute a meeting. Mr. Snyder then asked if there had been any activity in bringing an industry back to downtown Galax. Keith Barker stated that Galax is currently in the process of the applying for funds for restructure some areas off of Meadow Street, and he also mentioned that the Hampton Property in West Galax was a potential site. No other discussion was held. Mr. Snyder asked Council to please attend the information session about the project.

At 8:50 pm Councilwoman Plichta motioned for the meeting to be adjourned to the Special Called Meeting on March 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.


Clerk


Mayor