

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
March 24, 2008
Minutes

The Galax City Council convened in Council Chambers on March 24, 2008 at 7:30pm. The meeting was called to order by the mayor with all councilpersons present and they are as listed: Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, John Garner, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Derrick Davis and Helen Kyle.

Councilman Garner prayed the opening prayer and then led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Kirby motioned to approve the minutes with an addendum that states that *following adjournment of the March 10, 2008 meeting and the arrival of Deanna Cox the meeting was reconvened to hear the report from Mrs. Cox. With no action taken the meeting was again adjourned.* Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time set to receive a recommendation from the Planning Commission on a Conditional Use Permit request from Kim and Richard Hill. This request is to construct 5 apartments on the second floor of their building on the corner of Main and Oldtown Street. The Planning Commission's recommendation was to approve the Conditional Use Permit. Councilman Garner motioned to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Leah Truitt, Luis Moreno and Charley Adams from Galax High School were present at tonight's meeting to discuss the results of a Forum on Youth at the Crossroads Center. Galax High School students participated with students from Grayson County High School and Carroll County High School. Their findings determined that the youth of the area would like to become actively involved with the community and local government and to have more activities for the high school age population.

Councilman Lazo suggested that perhaps a youth advisory board could be developed for local government and the school board. Councilman Greene suggested that the Recreation Advisory Board have a member from the high school age group. A discussion ensued.

City Schools Superintendent Mr. Cook was present at tonight's meeting to present the 2008-2009 Schools Budget. The total budget is in the amount of \$13,731,981.00; and, he requested that the total amount be appropriated in a lump sum.

Councilman Garner motioned to set a public hearing on the Schools Budget for April 14, 2008. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A representative from the Twin County Prevention Coalition was on the agenda for this meeting; however, no one came to address Council so this item was tabled for the next meeting.

Laura Bryant of the Galax Carroll Regional Library gave an update on the services that are offered through our library and on some of the long-range visions. A discussion ensued and Councilman Lazo suggested that a coffee bar would be an enhancement to the library.

City Manager Holland discussed some proposed recommendations on traffic pattern changes in the downtown area. Following his recommendations and discussion, Councilman Garner motioned to remove the restricted left turns at the intersections of Main, Oldtown, Grayson and Washington streets for ninety (90) days and keep statistics on the changes. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Kirby suggested that it would be helpful to have an indicator that a vehicle is aligned correctly in a parking space.

Councilman Kirby invited everyone to the grand opening of Snickerdoodles on April 12 at 122 South Main.

Mayor Mitchell referred to a letter that had been received by the city manager. A visitor to the area had left her purse in a Galax restaurant. When she missed her purse she went back to the restaurant but it was gone. She reported the loss to officer Jason Hawks, of the Galax Police Department, who assisted her in filing a report. The next morning Tim Hanks, of the trash pickup department, found the empty wallet on top of a dumpster and it was returned to her. She was very complimentary of the two city employees who helped her.

Mayor Mitchell reminded Council members of the regional meeting with the two adjoining counties on March 26 at Crossroads.

Bill Webb representing the Chamber of Commerce advised that he will address Council at the next meeting with an update on "Smoke on the Mountain."

Mr. Webb is also with the Employment Commission and he stated that members of his office will be meeting with workers from Vaughan Furniture on April 1 to discuss prospective jobs, retraining, educational and financial assistance. The plant will close on May 20.

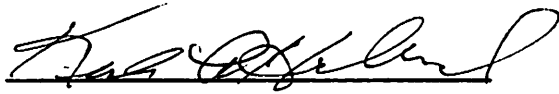
At 8:45pm Councilman Greene motioned to go into executive session as authorized in the *Code of Virginia* Section 2.2-3711 A.1 – Personnel Matter (Finance Department). Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Nikki Shank, Director of Finance, also attended the closed meeting.

The Certification of Executive Session is a part of these minutes.

Council members returned to regular session at 9:15pm. No action was taken and the meeting was unanimously adjourned.



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 Section 2.2-3711A.1 to discuss candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation or resignation of employees 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 Councilmember Greene seconded by Councilmember Kirby.

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, Garner, Mitchell, Greene, Davis and Kyle

Nays: None

This Certification Resolution was adopted March 24, 2008.



Clerk/City Manager