

# GALAX CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes

April 11, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on April 11, 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: Councilman Lazo, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell presented a resolution to the Galax High School Boys Varsity Basketball team for winning the Virginia High School League Group A Boy's Basketball State Championship. Councilwoman Plichta moved to adopt the resolution. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Councilman Garner motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 28, 2011. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

This was the advertised date for the public hearing on the Galax City School budget. Council was not required to take action at this public hearing but will consider approving the budget at the April 25, 2011 council meeting. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comment. After hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

Alan Caudell, Attorney at Law, presented a request to Council that asked them to consider the requested alley abandonment for Billy Gene Blevins, Sr on the property adjacent to Blevins Building Supply on South Main Street. Keith Barker explained that there are no utilities in the alley and the city has not received any public comment to date. Mr. Caudell has notified all adjoining property owners of the closure request. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the alley abandonment as requested. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Brenda Marrah updated council of the continued work on the Safe Routes to School Grant submittal. She asked council to approve the submission of a request to fund the following improvements:

- Improvement of the GES drop-off area on McArthur Street. Parent pick-up and drop-off would be eliminated. The school bus loop would be graded and paved.
- A new covered area would be built for GES students awaiting parent pick-up on Academy Drive.
- Reconstruction of sidewalk on one side of Front Street between the schools.

- New sidewalk on Maroon Tide Drive from the schools to Main Street (and the Galax Recreation Center.)
- New sidewalk on McArthur Street from Main Street to Anderson St.
- Reconstruction of sidewalk on Circle Drive.
- New sidewalk beginning on Parkwood Drive south of McArthur Street.
- New bike parking at the elementary and at the middle schools.

The grant has been developed in cooperation with the school system and with assistance from the Engineering Department. Council was asked to approve the \$500,000 grant request and the Galax School Board will be asked to approve the request at their next regular meeting. Councilman Lazo stated his concern of the planned sidewalks on Parkwood Drive, and the potential affect on the resident's property. Keith Barker stated that there were three different widths of sidewalks that could be used and they would be constructed on the city's right of way. Councilman Garner asked if the sidewalk construction would involve curbing and if it would affect the elevation of the road. Keith Barker did state that depending on the project, some streets may have to milled to make the sidewalks feasible to the neighborhood. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the submission of the grant request. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Susan Clark, Director of the Galax Social Services requested that council proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. She updated council on recent statistics for Galax and their on-going effort to prevent child abuse. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to adopt the proclamation as presented. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Joey Davis, Galax representative for the Rooftop of VA CAP/IPR (Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation Program) requested that City Council approve up to \$5000.00 from the Galax Revolving Loan Program to assist the family at 342 Parkwood Drive, and that no re-payment of the loan would be required. The funding will go towards demolition of the existing house and construction a new 3-bedroom house at this location. He explained that the house will have to be demolished and rebuilt. Councilwoman Plichta stated she is familiar with the house and loved the idea of rebuilding it. Mayor Mitchell thanked Joey for serving as the Galax representative on the board. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the funding. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker stated that the Galax Downtown Association has set dates for three Friday night "Cruisin' and Groovin' events this summer. They have requested that Main and Grayson Streets be closed at 4pm on each of the following dates: June 17, July 29, and August 26. City Council was asked to approve the request. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the dates as requested. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the Jeff Matthews Memorial Museum has asked that Malessa Edwards be appointed to their board to replace the unexpired term of Marcus Edwards, who has moved out of the area. Per the Museum Board bylaws, Council makes these board appointments based on the recommendation of the Museum Board. The term of service will be through 2012. Councilman Garner motioned to accept the request. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that the reassessment has begun in Galax. Per Commissioner of Revenue David Hankley, The City of Galax and Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group will be conducting the four year reassessment of real estate. The in-field appraisers will have appropriate identification and their vehicles will have placards indicating Appraisal Officials. Their work may require a measuring of the buildings and structures as well as taking photographs of the property. Citizens may contact the appraisal company by calling 601-7091. This is a local phone number and does not require the area code. Property owners will be notified of their assessment value by mail in the fall of 2011 and will have the opportunity to meet with the appraisal company as well as the Board of Equalization.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

*At the time of the preparation of the agenda, no one has requested to appear before Council, but you may want to allow any citizen that so wishes to address Council with no action taken until the issue can be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.*

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 8:20 p.m Councilman Lazo motioned for the meeting enter into closed sessions under **Acquisition of Real Property, §2.2-3711 A.3 of the Code of Virginia** - Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 9:00 p.m Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia Code section were discussed and no action taken, with the following affirmation: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 9:02p.m., the Council meeting adjourned.



Clerk

  
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Mayor