

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
May 24, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 24, 2010 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, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Webb.

Councilman Davis prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 10, 2010.

Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

A Public Hearing was held regarding the Galax City Budget FY11. This was the advertised date for the public hearing on the city budget. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comment. Pam Hall from Brain Injury Services thanked council for their continued support and asked for future support in the upcoming year. She updated council on the program to include the hiring of a new employee and on-going programs offered. Councilman Webb stated he appreciated the dedication that the program offered to Veterans. Councilman Lazo asked Keith Barker how much was budgeted to the program for the FY11 budget year. Mr. Barker stated that \$250.00 was budgeted. Mayor Mitchell stated it had been a difficult year in the budgeting process and appreciated council and support staff's work to put the budget together. At 7:40 p.m., Mayor Mitchell closed the public hearing. Council is not required to take action at this public hearing but will consider approving the budget at the June 14, 2010 council meeting.

Keith Barker informed council that the City of Galax has received a Conditional Use Permit request from Carl Zimmerman to allow one apartment to be located above his commercial property located at 211 W. Oldtown Street and known as Tax Parcel 55-89. The building is currently zoned B-2 General Business which under section 160-93.A allows apartments use, both on the second floor and the first floor not fronting on designated streets. The Planning Commission met on Monday May 24, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. and unanimously voted in favor of the request. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the request for the Conditional Use Permit. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the following ordinances were discussed at the budget planning sessions as possible fee increases in the FY11 budget. City Council was asked to set June 14, 2010 as the public hearing date for these ordinance revisions. The proposed changes are:

- a. 66-8 – Waste Collection Charges – the intent with this change is to revise the hand pickup charge from \$2 per week to \$3 per week. This will change the billing on the bi-monthly billing from \$16 to \$24 typically. Hand pickups for multiple cans past the 3 ~ 32 gallons container will change the respective \$1 per week also. A copy of the tier charges is included.

- b. 148-84 – Vehicle License Fees – the intent is to raise vehicle license fees by \$10 for passenger vehicles (including pickups), motorcycles and commercial trucks.
- c. 153-36 - Water and Sewer User Rates – the revised rate structure is attached along with proposed changes to the connection fee. As council is aware, the City agreed to revise rates as required to make the Utility Fund a self-supporting enterprise fund with the recent VRA loan. Rates for minimum users will not change with this revision.
- d. 153-37 – Water and Sewer Deposits – The intent with this change is to cover our possible loss with tenant properties with non-payment of a bill.

Councilman Davis motioned to set the public hearing date for the ordinance revisions for June 14, 2010. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Council was asked to set June 14, 2010 as a public hearing for a year-end FY10 Budget Amendment. The main purpose of this amendment will be to address comments by the auditors to correct budget shortfalls and over runs prior to our final audit. Councilman Davis motioned to set the public hearing for June 14, 2010. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Chief Clark from the Galax Police Department informed Council that The Galax Police Department has been funded by the Department of Criminal Justice Services Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program to purchase a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Incident Response Vehicle. The vehicle will be based in Galax with the understanding that if needed within this region they will deploy the vehicle. They anticipate a grant drawdown in November 2010 when the vehicle will be delivered. The remainder of the grant will purchase radio equipment and personnel protective equipment for the Galax Tactical Response Team. Chief Clark requested that a sole source designation for Lenco Armored Vehicles in the amount of \$251,792.00 be approved as this vehicle is not available from any other supplier. Councilman Garner questioned what the vehicle would be used for. Chief Clark explained that it would be used for tactical response. Vice Mayor Greene stated that is was great that we were chosen to house the vehicle. Mayor Mitchell asked if the training would be the same for all the other localities. Chief Clark replied that the all personnel would be complete the same training. Councilman Davis motioned that the sole source procurement for \$251,792.00 be approved. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that The Cruisin' & Groovin' Events (Groovin on Grayson) have tentatively been scheduled for June 18, July 23, and September 10. This will include a classic car show and music on the Grayson Street Stage. The GDA is requesting that portions of Main, Grayson and Center streets be closed for these Friday night events. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to approve The Cruisin' & Groovin' events with the set street closings. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the city is planning to hold a public auction of surplus equipment on May 28. A list of equipment was provided to council. Council was asked to declare these items as surplus public property and release them for public auction. Council was also asked to allow employees of the city and affiliate agencies to participate in the open auction, as has been done in the years past. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the list of items for the auction and allow employees to participate. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker reminded council that they traditionally take action to revise the regular meeting schedule during the period of June through October. Action was requested to formally set the City Council regular meeting schedule for June through October for the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, unless otherwise altered through public notification, and to further cancel the second monthly meeting usually held on the fourth Monday of each month during this same period. This does not prohibit special called meetings as allowed by law. The regular meeting schedule would be as follows: Monday, June 14, Monday, July 12, Monday, August 9 (Fiddlers Convention), Monday, September 13, and Monday, October 11 (VML typically serves as the second meeting in Oct). Bi-monthly meetings the second and fourth Mondays will start back in November. Councilman Garner requested that the August 9 meeting be moved to August 16. Mayor Mitchell moved to accept the meeting schedule with the revision that the August meeting will be held on August 16. The meeting dates will be advertised for public notice.

The Virginia Department of Health, The Office of Drinking Water, has awarded our water system with a 2009 Excellence in Waterworks Operations Silver Award. This award indicates our water treatment plant met the Virginia Optimization Program goals for clarification and filtration during 2009. Mayor Mitchell noted that Mike Brown from the Water Department was present and this was the fourth year in a row they have been recognized with an award.

Keith Barker informed council that a suggestion has been made to ease congestion in Rex Lane at the District III location. Currently the transit buses use this location for loading and unloading passengers, picking up route information, etc. It has been suggested that the three parking spots, located directly in front of the District III office, marked as 4 hour parking, be remarked for transit buses only or transit buses and loading zones only. This will allow the buses a specific area to park for loading and unloading and will not block the road. Currently the parking spots are being utilized by their employees, who will be able to park in the upper employee lot. Vice-Mayor Greene noted that he had recently seen the congestion in Rex Lane and motioned to approve the designation of the parking spots as requested. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 8:15 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk