

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
May 27, 2008
Minutes

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on May 27, 2008 at 7:30pm in City Council Chambers. Councilpersons present were Robert Lazo, John Garner, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Derrick Davis, and Helen Kyle. Robert Kirby was absent from the meeting.

Shawn Brooms and Patrick Nicola, from the Water Treatment Plant, were present to receive a Silver Award Certificate for the Water Treatment Plant. This award is given by the Virginia Department of Health for Excellence in Waterworks Operations and presented by Mayor Mitchell.

Councilman Greene stated that he had toured the water treatment plant and that it is an amazing operation.

Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order and Councilman Davis prayed the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Councilman Greene motioned to approve the minutes as written and to dispense with the reading of said minutes. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

This was the date and time advertised for a public hearing to receive comments on leasing municipal owned property on City View Street and Lineberry Lane. US Cellular has approached the City concerning leasing these properties for the purpose of replacing and erecting a cell tower on each property. Following an overview of the project, Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing open.

Mary Jane and Mike Carrico, 105 City View Street, addressed Council with concerns of locating a new tower in a residential area. Some of the concerns they addressed were: height of the tower; radiation; lightening; additional traffic; liability for an accident; security; landscaping; what if tower falls; subletting.

Jane Patton, Waugh Street resident; expressed concerns related to: screening, tower falling; lighting on tower; access to property; being located in residential area.

Carl Taskes, US Cellular rep, addressed concerns and questions explaining that the reason for the location on City View is the elevation of the property and to provide additional coverage and space for other carriers. He further explained that even though the tower will be taller than the one there it is designed so that if it were to fall it would fall in sections and not damage surrounding property.

Devan Freeman questioned if the tower could be constructed at the height of the old tower and added on later.

Joe Snyder of 211 Waugh Street addressed the fact that the notice of the public hearing was not thorough enough; due diligence of the contract, the lease; and sections of the structure.

Further discussion.

Mrs. Kemp, 107 City View, stated that she is totally against the project.

More discussion. The public hearing was declared closed at 8:59pm. No comments were received concerning the Lineberry Lane tower.

Mayor Mitchell thanked the participants in the public hearing for their demeanor and conduct and that the comments will be taken under advisement.

City Manager Holland advised that the City has received a grant in the amount of \$980,000 from the Department of Housing and Community Development. This money will be used on the Mill Creek Interceptor Overflow Reduction Project.

Devan Freeman presented a petition from fifteen households on Thomason Lane requesting that the City assume repair and maintenance of the private lane. A discussion ensued and no action was taken.

Phil Martin from Virtual IT was present at tonight's meeting to present the results of the recent assessment of the City's technology needs.

Erin Riedhammer, Downtown Association, was present to promote "Groovin on Grayson," which will be held the last Friday of each month June through September. Grayson Street from Main to Jefferson will be closed from 6-10pm. Bands are planned for the Grayson Street Stage with wine and beer sold. This event is planned to attract the "young professionals". Following discussion, Councilman Lazo motioned to endorse the idea and concept. Councilman Garner seconded the motion. Councilpersons Lazo, Garner, Mitchell, and Kyle each tendered a yea vote. Councilmen Greene and Davis each voted nay. Councilmen Greene and Davis stated that they approve the idea but do not approve of alcohol being sold at the event.

Mayor Mitchell presented a proclamation acknowledging the Town of Pulaski for their efforts in extending the New River Trail into their town and to recognize the connection of the two localities along the New River Trail State Park. Fred Mitchell will carry the Proclamation by bike to the Town of Pulaski where the two localities will come together for a dedication ceremony. The Town of Pulaski and the City will exchange trees to be planted at the park to recognize the cooperation of the two communities.

Members of Council were reminded that there will be a public meeting at the Rex on Tuesday, June 3. The purpose of the meeting is to receive ideas and suggestions for some of the design work to be done in the revitalization project on Main Street.

With no other business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned on a motion by Councilman Greene and a second by Councilman Garner at 10:25pm.



Mayor



Clerk