

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

July 12, 2004

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on July 12, 2004, at 7:30pm.

Judge Edward M. Turner administered the Oath of Office to the three newly elected council members and they are as listed: Helen Kyle, Robert Kirby and Robert Lazo.

Returning Council members are Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene and George Valdez.

As this meeting is designated as the reorganizational meeting for Council, City Manager Campbell called the meeting to order. Mr. Campbell called for nominations for mayor. Councilwoman Plichta nominated Councilman Mitchell. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell called for nomination for vice mayor. Councilman Valdez motioned to nominate Councilman Greene for vice mayor. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and called for Councilman Greene to be vice mayor by acclamation. All members of City Council voted in favor of said motion.

Vice mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell's comments on the Welcome Home celebration for the local Army Reserve Unit were very positive.

Planning Commission chairman, Ron Catron, stated that the Commission recommends that the request to rezone the former Odell Hampton property near Healing Springs Animal Hospital from R-2 to M-1 be granted. This change in zoning would allow Healing Springs Animal Hospital to expand its services of boarding and treating animals. A discussion ensued. Following the discussion, Councilman Greene motioned to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation. Councilman Valdez offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved to rezone said property.

Councilman Greene motioned to accept the minutes of the June 14 meeting as written and to dispense with their reading. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Valdez motioned to appropriate the 2004-2005 School Budget in the amount of \$10,576,702.00. Councilwoman Plichta offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appropriate the 2004-05 City Budget in a lump sum in the amount of \$17,217,853.00. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A request from the Twin County Airport for \$5,250 was heard at the last Council meeting. This is a one-time request for monies to be used as "seed" to pay for site preparation for a proposed private corporate hangar at the airport. Carroll and Grayson Counties also received the same request and each locality has approved the request. Councilman Valdez motioned to approve the request. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time set for three public hearings relating to requests for zoning changes.

1. Gladeville United Methodist Church from R-2 to B-2. This would allow the church property to comply with the city's zoning ordinance. A question was raised concerning the church's plan for the property. A church representative, Margaret Webb, assured the adjoining property owner that the church had no plans to sell any of its property. No other comments were received.
2. Camp Zion Church requests that their zoning be changed from R-2 to B-2 to allow for the construction of a picnic shelter on its property. No comments were heard.
3. Marjorie Dannelly 812 West Stuart Drive requested a zoning change for her property from R-2 to B-3. She has a buyer for the property if this change can be made to allow for the addition to the present building located on said property. Mrs. Sweeney said she would like more information on the addition and the design for expansion.

With no further comments the public hearings were closed. Mr. Catron stated that the Commission would meet the following Wednesday evening in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building to decide on a recommendation to Council for each zoning change request that was heard at this meeting.

Following consideration of the Section 148-2 Amendment incorporating by reference various vehicle and traffic laws changes enacted by the Virginia General Assembly, Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the ordinance as an emergency measure and make it retroactive to July 1, 2004. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. As approved, this ordinance incorporates into the Galax City Code any vehicle and traffic law changes made by the Virginia General Assembly during its last session.

Chief Clark from the Galax Police Department was present at tonight's meeting to discuss acquiring Mobile Wireless Broadband service through Federal Homeland Security funding. This network would allow police officers to access data bases while in their police vehicles. Following Chief Clark's discussion, David Hankley discussed proposed plans for the fire department to manage and sell wireless broadband services in the city.

On a motion and second, Chief Clark was unanimously designated as the City's agent for Homeland Security grant funding in the amount of \$34,317. These monies will be used for water tank security, body armor and wireless broadband.

Police Chief Clark advised Council that two new police officers have been hired. They are Jacob Vaughan and Chris Hines. Officer Vaughan was introduced; however Officer Hines was out of town and could not attend tonight's meeting.

Mayor Mitchell advised that his term on the Planning Commission has expired and he would like for another Council member to be appointed to the Commission. Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Councilwoman Plichta to the Galax Planning Commission. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion. Councilwoman Plichta was unanimously appointed to the Planning Commission.

Darlene Coleman has tendered her resignation from the Planning Commission. Council was advised that Alan Funk would serve if Council chooses. Planning Commission Chairman Ronnie Catron requested that the appointment be carried forward to the next Council meeting.

On a motion by Councilwoman Plichta, and a second by Councilman Kirby, Councilman Valdez was unanimously appointed to serve on the Regional E-911 Commission.

Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Councilwoman Plichta to serve on the board for the Galax-Grayson Ambulance Service. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene was unanimously appointed to serve on the Carroll, Grayson, and Galax Solid Waste Authority on a motion by Councilman Valdez and a second by Councilwoman Plichta. It was noted that Mayor Mitchell and the City Manager also serve on the Authority.

Norma Busic was unanimously appointed to serve a second term on the Library Board. The motion was made by Councilman Kirby and seconded by Councilman Valdez.

Council was advised that there are two openings on the Parks and Recreation Commission. It was decided to run an ad in the paper to solicit interest from the community.

Councilman Lazo was unanimously appointed to serve on the District Three Governmental Cooperative and Zack Kyle will serve as the alternate. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion and Councilman Greene offered the second to the motion.

Following a discussion relating to the Twin County Airport Commission, it was decided that following further consideration of the Charter, By-Laws and policies the City would send a letter with its recommendations.

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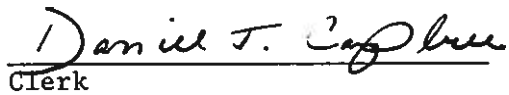
City Manager Campbell reminded members of Council of the annual VML Conference scheduled for October 3-5 in Alexandria.

Councilman Valdez initiated a discussion of streets to be closed during the street festival in August. There was no action taken.

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:42pm.



Mayor



Clerk

