

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
August 11, 2003

The Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on August 11, 2003 at 7:30pm. The meeting was called to order by the mayor with all councilpersons being present and they are as listed: Odell Hamden, Van McCarter, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, George Valdez, and Johnny Lemons.

Councilman Lemons prayed an opening prayer; following the prayer he led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman McCarter motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as written. Councilman Hamden offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This date was set and advertised for a public hearing on the proposed Transient Room Rental Tax. Mayor Mitchell opened the hearing and called for comments. Councilman Hamden stated that the tax only applies to hotel and motel rooms that are rented for less than thirty days. No other comments were heard and the hearing was declared closed.

This was the date and time advertised for a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed revision to the Dogs and Other Animals ordinance. The city manager gave a brief overview of the changes to the ordinance. Mayor Mitchell called for comments.

Wanda Harris expressed her displeasure with cats being included. She stated that they are important to nursing homes and lonely people and that they kill rats and mice. She said she just didn't understand why cats were being targeted. The city manager explained the number of cats and the mayor stated that the ordinance is one of responsibility - that is to make the owners responsible for their animals and to take care of them.

Rebecca Wilson asked how many dogs would be allowed and if the owner would be required to clean up after the animals.

John Porter stated that three dogs were too many. He would rather have three goats than three dogs in his neighborhood.

John Turbyfill stated his opposition to not being able to have goats in the city. He advised that he had just purchased \$5,000 worth of goats and in five years would make \$78,000 on the goats. He challenged members of council to tell him of any other investment where he could make \$78,000 in five years on a \$5,000 investment. He owns a farm in the city and has previously had a herd of goats on this land.

Chris Bridges stated that he thought a small number of goats and

sheep could be a great asset to property and owners and asked if the exclusion of these animals could be reconsidered so that property owners could have two or three if the size of the property was large enough.

With no further comments received the hearing was declared closed.

Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Tax on Cellular Telephone Services. The maximum amount is \$1.50 per account. No comments were received and the hearing was declared closed.

Tonight was set as the time to have a second reading on Section 107-6 Galax Code Rescission. Mr. Campbell advised that the city restrictions would be replaced by the State Code requirements regarding hours of sale. Councilman Hamden motioned to accept the second reading of said ordinance. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This date was the date set for a joint public hearing between the Planning Commission and City Council to receive public comment on the rezoning of a portion of the Galax Country Club property on the corner of Glendale Road and Country Club Lane. Realtor Gary Ballard stated that the request was to rezone approximately 2.5 acres from R1 to B1 to allow for the construction of a restaurant. Planning Commission chairman, Ron Catron, called for comments. One citizen asked to see plans for the project. Another questioned if the widening of Glendale Road had been taken into consideration. Mr. Campbell addressed the question.

Bruce Galyen asked if the restaurant would be in a separate building from the Country Club. The architect for the project, Doug Williams, discussed the building design.

An area resident stated that he was against the project because of the traffic problems.

Mayor Mitchell advised that he had been contacted by some folks who had traffic concerns about the project.

The public hearing was declared closed and Mr. Catron advised that the Commission would meet on August 25 to consider a recommendation regarding the request. All Planning Commission members were present and they are as listed: Ron Catron, Roger Martin, Anne Vaughan, C. M. Mitchell, Dan Rector, Jim Adams and Darlene Coleman.

Following a request from Attorney Vaught for the vacation of an unconstructed alley that runs through the Kyle and Williams building on East Stuart Drive a public hearing was called by Mayor Mitchell. No comments were received and the hearing was declared closed. Councilman Hamden motioned that the first reading of the Ordinance of Vacation be accepted. Councilman

McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Members of Council received a request from Paul Bullins to approve a subdivision development located off Glendale Road. Zoning Administrator Zack Kyle advised that the requirements for the subdivision are in order. Councilman McCarter motioned to approve the subdivision request. Councilman Hamden seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Furniture Manufacturers' Legal Trade Resolution was discussed. Councilman Lemons motioned to adopt the resolution. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Lemons motioned to appoint Judy Fayne, Gay Zachary and Don Houk to the Recreation Advisory Commission. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell advised that comments could be submitted on the proposed Duke Energy facility that is proposed for Wythe County.


By unanimous approval, Galax City Council convened in an executive session as authorized in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) discussion concerning a prospective industry or expansion of an existing industry where no previous announcement has been made.

Councilman Hamden motioned to return to regular session. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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

With no further business the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:10pm.

  
Mayor

  
Clerk

