GALAX CITY COUNCIL Minutes September 13, 2004

The Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on September 13, 2004, with the following councilpersons present and they are as listed: C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, and Helen Kyle. George Valdez was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order. Councilman Kirby prayed the opening prayer and Mayor Mitchell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as written. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time duly advertised for a joint public hearing with Galax City Council and the Galax Planning Commission. All Planning Commission members were present and they are as listed: Ron Catron, Roger Martin, Anne Vaughan, Alan Funk, Jim Adams, and Sharon Plichta.

The purpose of the hearing was to seek citizen comments on a request that the Old Star Drive In property on Route 89 be rezoned from R1 to M1. Charles Cox wants to purchase the land to construct storage facilities and in order to do this the property would have to be rezoned.

Mr. Cox addressed his request and explained the proposed project. His plans are to fill in the front part of the property to construct the buildings; however because the back portion is low lying and near the creek he has no plans to develop the backside. Mr. Cox answered several questions offered by the Planning Commission. The questions related to the lay of the land and how the construction would affect the creek.

Mr. Hodge, a neighbor to the property spoke in favor of the project if it would help clean up the property and that end of town. He also asked Council to look closely at the Jack Higgins property which is in the same area. He stated that it is in a terrible condition and something needs to be done.

With no further comments the public hearing was declared closed and Mr. Catron stated that a report would be given at the next meeting.

Mr. Catron advised that the Commission recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit for the Life Center. This will allow the Center to purchase adjacent property on Painter Street to construct a parking lot. Councilman Greene motioned to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation. Councilwoman Plichta offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Planning Commission chairman, Mr. Catron, discussed the reasons for the Commission's denial of the rezoning request for the Dr. Dannelly property on West Stuart Drive. He stated that the main reason is a density issue. There is a buyer for the property if the present medical office can be enlarged and a specific strip of city property can be purchased. Following a discussion, Councilwoman Plichta motioned to allow the zoning to be changed to allow for a dialysis center (B3) and to authorize the sale of the specific piece of property behind the medical office. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Following a discussion on the GEO Group Prison proposal, members of Council decided that there was no consensus.

Councilman Lazo motioned to designate Vice Mayor Greene as the voting delegate at VML and City Manager Campbell as the alternate. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell introduced the recently hired Director of Finance Nikki Shank. Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Mrs. Shank to fill the unexpired term of Doris Bedwell. The term will end January, 2006. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Planning Commission Chairman, Ron Catron, discussed adding two new districts to the zoning ordinance. The proposed districts would be R5 and B4. Following his discussion, he requested that Council review the new information for future consideration.

Police Chief Rick Clark discussed the September 8th flooding. He stated that all city departments and volunteers worked together really well in handling the emergency situation. He commended all those who were involved.

This was the date and time that Chief Clark advertised a public hearing to receive public comments on a proposed application for an RDA grant to be used for equipment. The grant would not be greater than \$50,000.

City Manager Campbell opened the public hearing for comments. No comments were received. The hearing was closed. Mr. Campbell advised that Chief Clark would proceed with the application.

Following consideration of an appointment to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Linda Galyean, Ruth Hall and Dorothy Lovelady were nominated. Councilpersons Greene, Plichta and Kyle each tendered a vote for Ruth Hall. Councilmen Mitchell, Kirby and Lazo each voted for Dorothy Lovelady. Due to Councilman Valdez's absence the appointment will be carried forward.

An appointment to the advisory board for the Parks and Recreation Center needs to be made. Todd Canaday has expressed an interest in serving on this board. Councilwoman

Kyle asked that the appointment be delayed so that two other people could also be considered.

Mr. Campbell advised that John Stringer has resigned from the IDA.. An appointment to fill his unexpired term was carried forward.

Councilman Lazo motioned that the Proclamation for Constitution Week be made a part of these minutes. The motion received a second and then unanimous approval.

City Manager Campbell advised that the Electoral Board and the Registrar had worked diligently in selecting new electronic voting equipment. They have selected the Unilect Patriot Touch Screen system. The cost is \$45,729.00 and will be funded by federal monies.

Mayor Mitchell and City Manager Campbell discussed a joint proposal with Grayson County to fund an economic development position. They outlined very specific reasons why this position is so important to the City's economic growth. Council members also commented on the importance of the city's economic growth. Mr. Campbell further advised that the city's share of funding for this position would be between \$22,500 and \$25,500. Councilman Greene motioned to pursue the joint proposal for economic development staffing. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Kirby motioned to set the week of November 15-19 for fall leaf collection. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell advised that APAC would begin paving Glendale Road on September 27.

Councilman Lazo stated that he hoped the economic developer would meet with a council representative often so that Council would be kept abreast of development opportunities.

After discussing a tour of city facilities, it was decided that the tour would leave the Municipal Building on October 16 at 9:30am.

Planning Commission chairman Ron Catron introduced Alan Funk who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Darlene Coleman.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:13pm.

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