

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
November 22, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 22, 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, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb.

Mayor Mitchell prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Greene motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 8, 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that Joey Davis, Maintenance Technician/ Inspector has expressed interest in serving on the Indoor Plumbing and Rehab Board through Rooftop of VA CAP. Joey currently works in the Engineering Department as the coordinator for all maintenance projects. He also has received training and become certified as an inspector and property maintenance official and serves as the backup to our current building official. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Joey Davis to the IPR Board. Councilman Garner seconded 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Council was provided with a draft copy of City Council Rules and Procedures which they can consider adopting. These would help council and staff with the typical operations of council, give guidance on responding to citizen requests and provide procedural methods for handling other items. Most items are pulled from our current City Code and City Charter and no efforts have been made to revise those specific items. A specific section Keith Barker asked Council to review was Section 3.3 asks Council to appoint a deputy clerk. This would be someone to act in the absence of the City Managers at a council meeting. Mayor Mitchell explained the thoughts behind having a set of rules and procedures and how they would assist council in operations and meetings to aid staff. Council tabled this business until the council meeting. No action was taken.

Keith Barker asked that council consider revisions to the current employee leave policy. This would establish an earned leave policy rather than an assigned leave as the city currently has. If adopted, employees would be informed of the changes in December and begin the earned leave for newer employees (less than 1 year of service) now and implement the earned leave for all others effective January 2012. As part of this change, he asked council to consider updating our current policy to make the earned leave more in conformity with the state and other local governments. There was general discussion on the proposal to the increase the days per the memo. Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the city managers recommendation. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that BRCEDA will be hiring a Grant Administrator to serve the region. The City of Galax will be able to take advantage of the position on an as needed basis. He provided a copy of the agreement between BRCEDA and Carroll County. There was a discussion from council on how this would impact the Galax, if we were responsible for any cost, and how much time would actually be allocated to Galax. Keith Barker will get more information for council and present it at an upcoming council meeting.

Mayor Mitchell acknowledged that the City of Galax was awarded the Award of Merit by the Virginia Downtown Development Association. Council was given a copy of the nomination that was submitted by Craig Wilson of Community Planning Partners.

At 8:45 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Lazo to enter into closed session under

**1. Public Safety, §2.2-3711(19) of the Code of Virginia** - Discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such activity or a related threat to public safety; or discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure.

**2. Business and Industry Development, §2.2-3711 A.5 of the Code of Virginia** - Prospective or expansion of business or industry where no previous public announcement has been made.

**3. Legal Council, §2.2-3711 A.7 of the Code of Virginia** - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation.

**4. Personnel Matter §2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.

At 9:15p.m., Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia Code section were discussed and no action taken, with the following affirmation: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

In other business Councilwoman Crouse asked that letters of support be written to the prison in Grayson County open. Mayor Mitchell asked Keith Barker to bring a resolution to the December council meeting regarding this matter.

Councilman Webb invited Council to attend the elected official's conference on December 2 at noon at Crossroads. This is a Local Elected Officials Employer Advisory Council function.

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Mayor

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Clerk