

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 12, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on December 12, 2011 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: Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Garner and Councilman Webb. Councilwoman Plichta and Councilman Lazo were not present at this time.

Vice-Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 28, 2011. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene –yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea,

John Aldridge from Brown Edwards addressed City Council on the city's FY2011 Audit. City Council was asked to approve the audit. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the audit as presented. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea.

Keith Barker informed council that VDOT has asked that staff confirm the priority of current projects listed on the city's urban priorities list. The projects listed are:

- Priority #1 – UPC 14797 Glendale Drive
- Priority #2 – UPC 92224 Traffic Signal Improvements
- Priority #3 – UPC 92225 Corridor Lighting
- Priority #4 – UPC 92227 Chestnut Creek Bridge Repairs
- Priority #5 – UPC 98091 Rte 58 Sidewalk Improvements

The Glendale Drive and Traffic Signal Improvements are essentially complete with some punchlist items remaining. The Corridor Lighting is still being worked on by AEP and the Chestnut Creek Bridge Repairs is in design phase with VDOT. Depending on the full scope of that work, construction would begin either in late 2012 or mid 2013. The Rte 58 Sidewalk Improvements is a project that was created to hold the remainder of funds that were re-allocated from the Glendale Road Project and no design work has taken place yet. VDOT is asking approval for this priority list at this time so that they can continue the bridge design. Council can consider additional projects that can be added list in late 2012 and which would require a public hearing at that time. Projects considered include Reserve Blvd (Rte 58) improvements, additional bridge maintenance, the sidewalk improvements, etc. In speaking with VDOT reps, Mr. Barker stated it is not expected that 6-year funds or additional allocations will be available at any point in the near future so the projects selected are ones that truly address the city's needs. City Council was asked to approve the City of Galax 13-18 Urban Priorities as presented. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the audit as presented. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea.


Keith Barker presented information to Council so they would be aware of some of the discussions in the current administration and budget. The following information was provided through VML in one of their update publications. The possible changes in road maintenance formula funding for Urban Programs would impact Galax by reducing the city's allocation from VDOT by \$238,000. This is approximately a 16% reduction in road maintenance funds. There are also discussions moving forward with turning over secondary road maintenance for rural programs to the respective counties. While nothing is finalized yet, council will need to continue following these items in our upcoming FY2013 budget discussions.

Keith Barker provided the Governor's Commission on Mandate Relief. He explained that the Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review has adopted two lists of mandates for potential repeal or amendment, based on input received from the public, local governments, and school divisions across the Commonwealth. Those lists are included in your packet. The Task Force's short-term goal is to recommend many of these mandates for elimination in the 2012 General Assembly session. They have also determined that a moratorium on new state mandates on local governments should be recommended for implementation and are in the process of determining the best way to establish an effective moratorium.

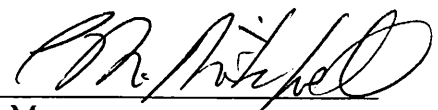
At 7:55 p.m., a motion was made by Vice Mayor Greene to enter into closed session under **Legal Council, §2.2-3711 A.5 of the Code of Virginia** - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation and **Personnel Matter § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion.

At 8:20 p.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: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea.

Councilman Garner motions to accept the City Manager's employment agreement with the revised changes and authorized the Mayor to execute the agreement with an effective date of January 1, 2012. The motion was seconded my Vice-Mayor Greene and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea.



Clerk



Mayor