

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 23, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 23, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:35 p.m. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following council persons present and they are as listed: Mayor Mitchell, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Plichta and Councilman Lazo. Councilwoman Crouse was absent.

Councilman Garner prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 9, 2012. Councilwoman Crouse 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo –yea.

Keith Barker updated council on the Nation League of Cities Prescription Card Program the city participates in. In that last 12 months, the program has assisted in reducing costs \$5,944.26 for 1016 prescriptions and 416 total customers.

Keith Barker updated council on the Wired Road. He stated it is continuing to expand services in our region with recent and ongoing projects. Through a Tobacco Commission Grant, fiber was recently run to the Galax City Schools and the Crossroads Institute and each are selecting a provider at this time. There will be additional projects with these remaining funds including some wireless service and possible additional fiber. A fiber/wireless project is also underway in Grayson County to serve the Grant community through a USDA Community Connect Grant. These grants are for unserved areas. This grant will provide a wireless backbone to the community and then fiber to approximately 60+ houses, the Grange Hall and Grayson Highlands School. This grant also will provide for a computing center at the Grange and staff for a 2 year period. Wired Road is also working with an ARC Grant that will provide fiber in the industrial parks in each region. This work is expected to begin once fiber is shipped and available.

Dave Nelson, Recreation Center Director provided council with an update on programs through the Recreation Department.

Keith Barker updated council on the Cascade Highland Board. Councilwoman Crouse and Ray Kohl serve as the Galax representatives to the Cascades Highland Board. He explained that this initiative is being dissolved effective this year.

Keith Barker requested that City Council set February 27, 2012 as the meeting where they can interview prospective candidates. Staff will run an ad seeking letters of interest for the appointment. Council would make the appointment at the March 12, 2012 meeting. The appointments of Ray Kohl and Helen Kyle to the Galax School Board expire on June 30, 2012. Councilman Webb motioned to set February 27, 2010 as the date for interviewing prospective candidates for the school board. 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo –yea.

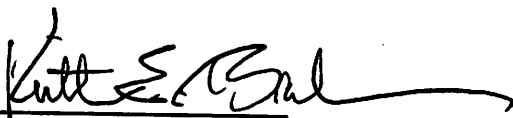
Council was presented with a communications policy that staff will implement. Keith Barker explained that while he has not experienced any known problems and have upgraded the overall security, currently there is no policy describing approved or unapproved uses by employees. This policy would be in use for employees who make use of the city's computers and systems. It has been reviewed by the city's attorney and he does recommend implementation.

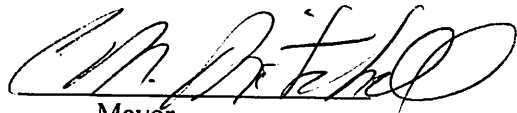
Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator, informed council that the City submitted a \$10,000 project proposal to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for a Mobile Answering Point or backup unit for Twin County E911. Localities are the only eligible applicants. The city has received that allocation letter from VDEM. This grant required a dollar-for-dollar match from non-federal funds. The source of the match was a Twin County E911 grant application to the Virginia Information Technologies Agency.

Brenda Marrah also received an email notification that the City has been selected for additional allocation in this grant program. She has requested to amend the project proposal for the full amount of the purchase price of the equipment system, which is \$12,996. It is requested that Council accept the allocation for funding from VDEM for this purpose, a Mobile Answering Point for Twin County E911, and allow the City to be a conduit for these grant funds. Councilman Garner motioned to accept the allocation for funding and manage these grant funds. Councilwoman Plichta 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea

At 8:19 p.m., a motion was made by Vice Mayor Greene to enter into closed session under **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. Councilman Webb seconded the motion.

At 8:36 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.


Clerk


Mayor