

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

February 27, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 27, 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, Councilwoman Crouse and Councilman Lazo.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 13, 2012. 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, Councilwoman Crouse–yea and Councilman Lazo.

City Council set this date to interview school board applicants for the term of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015. City Council received letters of interest from Ray Kohl, Helen Kyle and Jerrold Bennett for the 2 school board appointments. City Council allowed each candidate to speak on their interest.

At 7:45 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Webb to enter into closed **Closed Session - 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 9:03 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, Councilwoman Crouse–yea and Councilman Lazo.

Keith Barker informed council that Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Finance Director, is working on a budget amendment to address the grants received during FY2012. As the percentage of changes exceeds 1% of the total operational budget, the city has to advertise for a public hearing on the budget amendment. Mr. Barker asked that City Council set March 12, 2012 as the public hearing for a FY2012 budget amendment. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to set March 12, 2012 as the public hearing for a FY2012 budget amendment. Councilman Webb 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, Councilwoman Crouse–yea and Councilman Lazo.

Bill Sturgill, Superintendent, Galax City Schools, requested a budget amendment be made to the Galax City Schools FY2012 budget. No additional funds were requested by the schools. The requested changes represent an increase in the overall budget which is due to additional state, federal and program funds. The budget revision is to increase from \$12,914,663 to \$12,969,500, which is an increase of \$54,837 or .42%. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the budget amendment as presented. 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, Councilwoman Crouse–yea and Councilman Lazo.

Mandy Archer was introduced as the Director for the Crossroads Small Business Development Center at Crossroads. Ms. Archer provided an update on programs and work through the SBDC.

Ken McFayden, BRCEA Director, gave an update on the Wildwood Project and the current fund use.

Michael Armbrister with the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission provided a general overview of the comprehensive plan update as developed by the Galax Planning Commission. City Council will review the proposed comprehensive plan until the March 26, 2012 meeting. Any items council wished to modify can then be sent back to the planning commission for review.

Michael Armbrister with the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission informed council that with assistance from member jurisdictions and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) he has completed a required 5-year update of the Mount Roger Hazard Mitigation Plan. As determined through the update process, there were relatively few changes that needed to be made to the original plan. VDEM and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have approved the updated plan, and the plan is ready for adoption by the localities in the Mount Rogers Planning District. By adopting the updated plan, Galax will become eligible for Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance. This action does not obligate any county, city, or town to participate in such a grant; however, if a locality wishes to seek Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds a resolution must be adopted in order to be eligible for such projects. City Council was asked to approve the presented resolution. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to accept the resolution. Councilman Garner 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, Councilwoman Crouse–yea and Councilman Lazo.

Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator, informed council that she submitted a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant proposal to FEMA on February 24, 2012 on behalf of the Galax Fire Department. The city is seeking a grant for four years for the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. There is no match and there is not obligation beyond the four years of the grant. The grant would cover:

- Salary and benefits for a full-time Recruitment and Retention Coordinator for four years with starting salary at \$40,000 with 1.5% cost of living adjustment in years two through four, (roughly estimated to be approximately \$220,000 total);
- Marketing: \$2,000;
- Physicals for new recruits at \$500.00 each; budgeting for 30 new recruits over 4 years;
- Turnout Gear for new recruit following physical: \$3,000 per recruit;
- Station Duty Uniforms for new recruits: \$300.00 per recruit;
- Tuition Assistance for higher education and professional certifications: Instructor Certification Training (I & II) for one person: \$1,500; and
- Length of service awards program for new recruits based on operational requirements: \$750 per new recruit.

She explained that the intent is to assist in recruiting and training of new firefighters in order to maintain a strong and effective local volunteer department. No action was required of City Council.

Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator informed council that the City of Galax applied for and received three allocations from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Each award requires an equal dollar match with non-federal funds. The first was for a mobile answering point for E911 and the allocation was amended for the full purchase price of the equipment, \$12,996. Council previously accepted this allocation and no further action is required.

The second allocation is for \$14,425 to equip the city's primary Emergency Operations Center at police headquarters with 12 tables, 26 chairs, 2 radios and a smart interactive whiteboard system. The match is from staff personnel IT time; a generator to be installed at an outer building that provides internet paid from Wired Road funds; and communications charges paid from local funds. She requested Council's approval to accept the allocation for funding from VDEM. Councilman Webb motioned to accept the allocation for funding from VDEM. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea and Councilman Lazo.

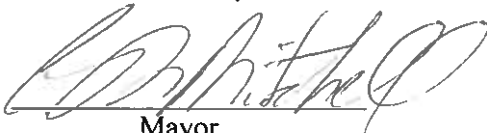
The third allocation is for \$20,285 to equip the alternate Emergency Operations Center at the Galax Volunteer Fire Department with 3 servers, firewall, printer, technology equipment, six building cameras and a smart interactive whiteboard system. The match will be staff personnel time from IT and an electrician and the routing of internet fiber to the Fire Station paid with funds by the Wired Road. She requested Council's approval to accept the allocation for funding from VDEM. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to accept the allocation from VDEM. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea and Councilman Lazo.

Keith Barker informed council that as part of the Bottom Area Project, staff is trying to address storm water issues in the neighborhood. A preliminary engineering report was performed by Adams-Heath and it estimated a pipe replacement project at \$1.1MM. As the total Bottom Area Project grant would potentially be \$1.4MM, additional funds are needed to perform the storm water portion of this project. Staff requested that a new 6-year VDOT project be adopted and \$500,000 in funds from our VDOT projects be allocated to this project. Because of the revised Glendale Road Project and cost savings on additional approved VDOT projects, the city currently has approximately \$1.5MM in unobligated 6-yr funds available from VDOT that can be allocated to the project. City Council was asked to review the information and set a public hearing for March 12, 2012 to consider the project. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to set the public hearing as requested for March 12. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea and Councilman Lazo.

At 10:15 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Garner 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. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion.

At 10:48 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, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.


Clerk


Mayor