

Galax City Council  
Minutes  
October 13, 2014

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on October 13, 2014 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: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo. Councilman Webb was absent.

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

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 8, 2014. 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, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Mayor Mitchell told Council that an unexpected vacancy was created on the Planning Commission Board when Mr. Sharpe's resignation was announced. He noted that the remainder of the term will expire June 30, 2017. He said that after advertising the vacancy in the newspaper, there were five citizens that applied for the position. In the order received they included: Dr. Jody Ray, Ruth Lyons, Janet Nuckolls, Dan Milby, and Rita Reeves. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to nominate Ms. Rita Reeves to the board. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

City Manager Keith Barker gave Council an update on the Bottom Area Project - Centurylink Conflict. Mr. Barker noted that additional communication has occurred with Centurylink since the last City Council meeting. He said that Centurylink has offered to assist financially in the redesign and relocation of the stormwater system to reduce the conflict with their lines along Shaw Street. He added that while additional engineering work was to be completed, the increase in costs would be handled by the additional Centurylink funds, a budget amendment to the DHCD funds on the project, and a possible budget amendment to the FY2015 Budget. Mr. Barker explained that the City was also applying for a VDOT Revenue Sharing grant which would allow us to obtain the additional required funds. In closing he noted that we would be receiving the final change order information from the contractor and hoped that work would begin soon again.

Keith Barker gave an update on the SRTS Project. He explained that bids were received on the SRS project and we were waiting on final approval from VDOT to begin work. Mr. Barker told Council that the bids we received will allow the following portions of the project to be performed: Front St. sidewalk replacement, Maroon Tide Dr. sidewalk construction, McArthur St. sidewalk construction, Main St. crosswalk at Maroon Tide Drive. VDOT has also provided an additional \$27,500 in funding to assist in improving the crosswalks and sidewalks at the McArthur St. / Swanson St. intersection. He added that in order to complete the project, we would need to provide \$27,789 in additional funds from elsewhere in our budget. He said that it is recommended that



Council amend the FY2015 budget to move \$27,789 from *Streets 10.4102.6014 Other Operating* to *VDOT SRTS 10.9900.1537* to provide the necessary funding. Mr. Barker noted that this would not be an increase in the City budget but moving money from a contingency line item to an approved project. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to accept the budget amendment. 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, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that the City had received notification from USDA that we have been approved for two matching funds grants for vehicles; an ambulance for GGEMS and police cars. He said that the ambulance funds would be matched to other grant funds GGEMS had received so there would be no local cost on the vehicle. Mayor Mitchell said that the City would also serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. He noted that the funding for the police cars would be included in this fiscal year budget. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve the resolution for USDA grant funds for an ambulance. 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, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the resolution for USDA grant funds for police cars. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.


Keith Barker informed Council of a Rooftop Board appointment. He said that currently the City Manager was serving as the alternate on the Rooftop Board and attending the monthly meetings until Galax appointed another board member. Mr. Barker said that he has spoken to Ms. Judy Bolt, HR Director, and she has agreed to represent Galax on the Board. Councilman Garner made the motion to appoint Ms. Bolt to the Rooftop Board of Directors. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.


Mayor Mitchell informed Council of an appointment at the Southwest Regional Enterprise Center (SREC). He explained that currently the City Manager was one of two representatives for Galax on the SREC Board. Keith Barker said that he has spoken to Ms. Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Finance Director, and she has agreed to represent Galax on the SREC Board in place of the City Manager. Councilman Lazo made the motion to appoint Ms. Taylor-Gallimore to the SREC 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, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Mayor Mitchell explained to Council that Mr. Justin Iroler, GHS Principal, Mr. Justin Iroler, has requested permission to have a GHS Homecoming Parade on Thursday, October 16 @ 7:00 PM. He said that the line-up will begin at 6:30 PM and the parade route will start at the corner of North Main Street and Webster Street and then South on Main Street to Felts Park Parade for a community wide pep rally. Mayor Mitchell said that the parade would include: GHS Band; Homecoming Court in Vehicles; Sports Teams and Various School Organizations. It was also noted that Council approved the same parade last year.

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the parade request. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:52 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk

