

Galax City Council
Minutes
December 8, 2014

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on December 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

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.

Councilwoman Crouse prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 24, 2014. 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.

Mr. Barker informed Council that the public hearing for the school budget revisions had been postponed to January 12, 2015 due to an incorrect date provided to the Gazette. He told Council that he included the letter and budget revision in Council's packet for their review prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mitchell announced information regarding the special election in November 2015 for the open City Council seat. Mr. Barker noted that the City had received verbal confirmation from the Court and State Board of Election that this date would be approved. A copy of the petition was included for Council's review. Mr. Barker informed Council that he had spoken to the City Attorney regarding the timing of the appointment. Mr. Cornwell recommended making the appointment by January 8, 2015 in order to be in compliance with the state code.

Chris Brown, Resource Development Manager for United Way of Southwest Virginia, gave an update on the agency's fund raising goals and statistics for the past year as well as the upcoming year. Mr. Brown explained to Council that the United Way impacted 7,000 lives in our area last year. He noted that the goal for 2014 was \$100K and believed that the goal would be reached as they were currently at 70% of the goal amount. Mr. Brown told Council that the City of Galax employees has donated \$1,600 and asked Council for a \$3,400 corporate donation to make the total City contribution \$5,000.

Judy Bolt, Human Resource Director, informed Council that the City's current Section 125 Cafeteria Plan which allows the employee to pay their health insurance and other allowable supplemental insurance premiums pre-tax needed to be updated to bring it in line with the Affordable Care Act regulations. Ms. Bolt asked Council to adopt the resolution presented. Councilman Lazo made the motion to approve the resolution to update the City's Section 125 Cafeteria Plan. 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.

Mayor Mitchell reminded Council that Mr. Bill Webb served as the alternate to the CLEO Board (WIA/WIB) for Councilman Garner. He said that this board meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Mayor Mitchell stated that if no one was interested in filling this vacancy that he would be available to be appointed.

Councilman Garner made the motion to appoint Mayor Mitchell as the alternate to the CLEO 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.

Mayor Mitchell explained to Council that Mr. Webb's resignation had created a vacancy for an alternate to Councilman Garner on the District III board. He noted that this board would meet every other month beginning in January on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM at the Marion District III offices. Mr. Barker informed Council that he would be available to serve as Councilman Garner's alternate if Council so desired to appoint him. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to appoint Mr. Barker. Councilwoman Crouse seconded that 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 due to Mr. Webb's resignation, there was now a vacancy on the Bottom Area Policy & Management Team. The prospective Council person would serve as the Council representative if appointed. Mayor Mitchell noted that the Board would meet each month on the first Wednesday at 4:00. He said that this board approves bids and contractors for the Bottom Area project, and also updates the management policy as needed. Mr. Barker explained that some approvals are handled by email. He also noted that per DHCD policy, a Council representative must be on this board and this appointment would be through the completion of the project. Councilwoman Crouse told Council that she would be available to serve if they so desired to appoint her. Mayor Mitchell declared that Ms. Crouse was unanimously approved by the following consensus votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Mayor Mitchell asked Council if they felt that it was necessary to have the December 22nd Council meeting since it was scheduled the week of Christmas. After a short discussion Council decided that it would be in everyone's best interest to have the December 22nd meeting in light of the Council vacancy which needed to be decided before January 8th.

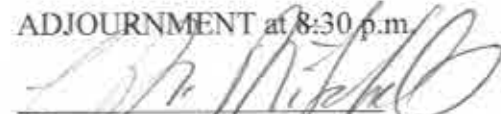
Mayor Mitchell accepted a motion from Councilwoman Plichta to enter into closed session per **§2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.


And also:

§2.2-3711 A.5 of the Code of Virginia - Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it passed unanimously by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

At 8:30 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 was taken, with the following affirmation: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:30 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk