

Galax City Council
Minutes
March 10, 2014

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on March 10, 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo.

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

Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

At 7:35 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Webb to enter into closed session under 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. 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 Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

At 7:55 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 – yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

On February 24, 2014, City Council interviewed candidates for appointment to the Galax School Board. The following citizens submitted letters of interest for the seat up for appointment:

- Larry Spangler
- Jason Jordan
- Dr. Eugenia Larrowe

City Council was asked to make one (1) appointment at this meeting. The term is for 3 years, beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. Mayor Mitchell asked that each councilmember place their vote for each school board candidate. Larry Spangler received 4 votes, Jason Jordan received 0 votes, and Dr. Eugenia Larrowe received 3 votes. Mayor Mitchell recognized Larry Spangler as being appointed to the Galax City School Board for the term beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

Keith Barker informed Council that the Galax Planning Commission met on March 5, 2014 to reconsider the request of Dixon Construction Co. Inc. for their property located behind 735 Glendale Road. The request is to rezone parcel Tax Parcel 37-99 from R-2 Medium Density Residential to B-2 General Business in order to use the parcel as part of the mobile home sales business located at the 735 Glendale Road parcel. He noted that Mr. Dixon presented the site plans and proffers that he also presented at the February 24, 2014 City Council Meeting. He told Council that the Planning Commission considered

his request and voted to recommend City Council rezone the property contingent on the proffers being offered by Mr. Dixon. Mr. Barker told Council that a copy of the minutes from the meeting were included in their packet. He said that the proffers offered were:

- This rezoning is necessary to allow the home sales business which is already duly licensed in the City of Galax on the adjoining property located at 735 Glendale Road, room for the placement of new demonstration homes for sale;
- Neither the subject property of this application nor any adjoining residential property that is owned by Mr. Dixon or his company will be used for storage.
- In the event that this commercial business ceases to exist on the adjoining 735 Glendale Road property, either Mr. Dixon or the commission may request that the property identified in this request be rezoned from B-2 to R-2.
- As per the Supplementary District Regulations for Zoning (§160-154), Mr. Dixon is prepared to construct a fence along the boundary line creating a 10' buffer zone behind the duplex apartments on Allen Lane. The adjoining property on the opposite side has been incorporated into the property of the Asbury Methodist Church making it non-residential.

Councilman Webb made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Galax Planning Commission including the proffers offered. 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 Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Marty Holliday, Deputy Director New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area, was present to give a presentation of the Skills Gap Analysis to Council.

Dave Nelson, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave an update on happenings at the Recreation Center and gave a presentation to Council about future plans of an indoor pool complex. He explained that along with the many features of the center, that it will also have a therapy pool which would be shared with the hospital. Mr. Nelson told Council that the project would possibly be funded by the hospital foundation.

Bill Sturgill, Superintendent of Galax City Schools, was present to speak to Council regarding the FY2014 Galax City Schools budget. He explained that he was seeking an amendment to the FY2014 Galax City Schools budget. A copy of his letter and the budget amendments were given to Council earlier in their packets for review. He told Council that the budget amendment has been passed by the Galax School Board and it would increase revenue and expenditures by \$104,443 to \$14,003,618; a .075% increase. He noted there would be no additional money required from the City. The motion was made by Vice Mayor Greene to amend the school budget as presented to \$14,003,618. 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 Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Keith Barker updated Council on the Bottom Area, Shaw St. Stormwater Improvement Project. He explained that he received unofficial notice on March 6, 2014 that VDOT has now rejected our second bid for the Shaw St. Stormwater Improvement Project as the bid was over 10% of the engineering estimate. He told Council that we are attempting to address their questions concerning the difference in the bid and estimate with the hope that we can seek their approval on the bid, however we are also preparing to re-advertise the project and seek new bids as soon as we have final word from them. He noted that in the event that we need to re-advertise, we will also need to seek a time extension on our project from DHCD as the second portion of our funding is not released until we meet milestones of completion on the stormwater work, and on the housing and commercial renovations.

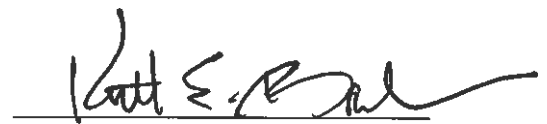
Keith Barker told Council that he and Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Finance Director have been speaking to Bruce Stockburger, the attorney with Gentry Locke that handled the CCSA historic tax credits. He explained that we are prepared to file tax returns for the non-profit Galax Futures, one of the agents of the tax credits, however, Mr. Barker noted, the question has arisen as to if there is a need to maintain this entity. He said that he was unsure of the reasoning for creation of Galax Futures, however most localities now use their IDA's as the entity that holds property and works on loans and economic develop projects. He also said that he has had our attorney also review the thoughts eliminating the Galax Futures organization and transferring all assets to the IDA and there are no issues we are aware of at this point in our review. Mr. Barker told Council that we will continue to explore the issue and bring a recommendation at the next meeting, unless Council has a concern on abolishing the Galax Futures organization.

Keith Barker presented to City Council to consider amending our Credit Card Policy in order to add another department to the approved listing. He requested that we add the Fire Department Retention and Recruitment Coordinator so that items needed in the way of training or equipment could be purchased for this department and the Fire Department. He noted that as the individual responsible for the purchase and card is a city employee, it keeps within the requirements of the policy. Councilman Garner made the motion to allow the City Manager to add a department to the approved listing as necessary. 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 Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:08 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

