

Galax City Council

Minutes

January 12, 2015

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 12, 2015 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, Councilman Lazo and Councilman Davis. Councilwoman Plichta was absent.

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

Mayor Mitchell welcomed and thanked incoming Council member, William L. Davis, Jr. for filling the unexpired term of Councilman Webb.

Mayor Mitchell recognized the Galax High School Boys Cross Country Team by presenting a proclamation to each for winning the 2014 VHSL 1A Boys Cross Country State Champion title. He then presented Clif Conley with a proclamation for winning the 2014 VHSL 1A Boys Cross Country Individual State Champion along with Dominic DiGiacomo for making the 2014 VHSL 1A Boys All-State Team.

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 22, 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date advertised for a Public Hearing concerning the Galax School FY2015 Budget Amendment. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comments. Mr. Bill Surgill, School Superintendent, addressed Council regarding the budget amendment. He noted that this is the largest kindergarten class at Galax Elementary with 140 students and 7 teachers. He explained that the amendment was a reflection of increased enrollment and additional state/federal funding in the amount of \$344,266. He said that 1254 students were projected but the budget was revised to 1320 students. Mr. Sturgill added that no additional funding would be required from the City. With no other comments, Mayor Mitchell declared the hearing closed. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to accept the Galax School FY2015 Budget Amendment. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that a request has been made for Council to review and consider approving a request to add the new road constructed at Albany Industries to our VDOT road inventory. Mr. Barker added that a resolution, map and other documentation were provided for Council's review. He noted that the name has been Vaughan Plant Road and could be amended by Council at their discretion. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve the resolution and name the road "Industry Rd." 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Mr. Robert Kirby's appointment to the Mount Rogers Community Service Board expired on December 31, 2014. He noted that the new term was for three years until December 31, 2017. He said that Mr. Kirby has expressed an interest in remaining on the board. Councilman Garner made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Kirby to the MRCSB. Councilman Davis 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council of Erosion & Sediment Control Ordinance revisions. Mr. Barker further explained that the erosion and sediment control which was presented to Council showed that the DEQ requested amendments based on revisions to the state model ordinance. He noted that Staff have reviewed the ordinance and saw no major changes to the overall document. Mr. Barker said that with Council's agreement, we would complete the final ordinance and advertise a public hearing for the second January meeting or first February meeting.

Keith Barker informed Council of Carroll County PSA Sewer Agreement Modifications. Mr. Barker explained that the Carroll County Public Service Authority has requested that Galax consider amending our sewer use agreement with them to allow additional sewer flow from the County, and to reserve sewer flow for Wildwood Commerce Park. He said that Staff and our consulting engineer had reviewed the document and would note the following major changes:

- Increase of flow from 260,000 gpd to 1,000,000 gpd to reflect additional County flow (450,000 gpd total) and flow from the Wildwood Commerce Park (550,000 gpd).
- The new term on the agreement was 45 years, however each locality may opt out with a 60 month notice.
- If either party opted out of the agreement prior to 60 months' notice, the party opting out would remit \$100,000 per year to the other party.
- The current agreement imposed a 20% surcharge rate if the flow exceeds the agreed upon rate for a specified time. The new agreement divides the flow rates into Carroll County and Wildwood, but maintains the 20% surcharge on each part.

Mr. Barker further said that other provisions of the original document remain. He said that in order to provide the requested flow for the County and still maintain adequate sewer capacity for Galax, some modifications to our system would be required at a later date if the full flow amounts from the County would be needed. He told Council that it was intended to bring a final document at the second January meeting containing steps to increase sewer flow in a reasonable and cost effective manner.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Mr. Jerrold Bennett was resigning his seats from the Industrial Development Authority and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. He noted that Mr. Bennett's term with the IDA would expire in June 2017 and his term with the Recreation Advisory Board would expire June 2015. Keith Barker explained that Dave Nelson has asked that we not fill the term for the Recreation Advisory Board until June since the appointee would be on the board for only 6 months. We can advertise the IDA appointment if Council desires or hold it until appointments in June. It was decided among Council members that the appointments would be advertised at a later date.

Keith Barker presented to Council a listing of proposed Festivals and Street Closures for 2015 compiled by Ray Kohl, Tourism Director. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to accept the 2015 Festivals and Street Closures. Councilman Garner 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker asked Council to approve the 2015 Holidays & Sanitation Calendar. Council members received a calendar for review. The dates included the alternate sanitation schedule at each holiday and the special pickups we do during the year. Mr. Barker explained with Council's approval, we would post and advertise the schedule at the various holidays. He noted that we would also include a copy of the document in the upcoming water bills. Councilman Garner made the motion to accept the 2015 Holidays & Sanitation Calendar. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker requested for Council to approve the FY2016 Budget Calendar. He explained that the draft budget calendar was included in Council's packets. Mr. Barker added that with Council's approval, we would start the process of notifying departments and outside agencies of the budget submittals. He noted that as always, delays in the state budget may affect our ability to meet some of the dates listed. Mr. Barker also asked that a City Council budget committee be named for this task also. He said that Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner have served in this role in the past. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the FY2016 Budget Calendar as presented. Councilman Lazo 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea. Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner said that they were both willing to serve on the City Council budget committee. Council members agreed unanimously that they should serve again.

#### HEARING OF VISITORS

Catherine Jadow appeared before Council with concerns of how Galax Elementary School could accommodate all of the extra children which Superintendent Bill Sturgill had spoken of earlier in his discussion of the school budget. Keith Barker reminded Ms. Jadow the non-resident enrollment has not increased and that rooms and space within the school were re-allocated so that there would be sufficient space for the students.

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 8:20 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Garner to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

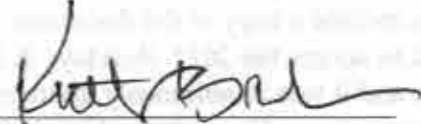
**§ Prospective Business 2.2-3711.A.5 of the Code of Virginia** – Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business's or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:35 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, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Clerk