

Galax City Council
Minutes
November 9, 2015

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 9, 2015 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, Councilman Lazo, and Councilman Davis.

Councilwoman Plichta 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 October 12, 2015. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker gave an update on the stormwater portion of the Bottom Area Project / Shaw Street Stormwater Project. He said as of the time of the City Council meeting, it was believed that all aspects of the stormwater utility portion of the Bottom Area project were completed and were waiting on a final inspection from VDOT. Mr. Barker thanked DLB Construction from Hillsville, and The Lane Group (our engineers) for their work on this difficult but much needed project. Mr. Barker and Mayor Mitchell also recognized Edwin Ward and the Engineering Department staff, along with Charlie Joyce, Mike Woodel and the Public Works staff, for their continued work and oversight of the project.

Mayor Mitchell welcomed Steven E. Williams, Virginia DMV Program Manager, who presented two awards to Chief Rick Clark in recognition of the City of Galax for increased seat belt usage. Mr. Williams informed Council that before the program was initiated, the City's average seat belt usage was at 53%. The average had increased to 89%, which was 10% above the national average.

Chief Clark presented an Emergency Operation Plan to Council for consideration of approval. Chief Clark explained that each locality (City – County) was required to have a written emergency operations plan which would be reviewed and revised every four years. He noted that a review and revision had been completed and there were minor changes in personnel and phone numbers. Chief Clark closed by saying that additional revisions could occur at other times as needed to keep the plan up to date. Councilman Garner commented that there were references to a Sheriff and Board of Supervisors within the plan. Keith Barker said that the plan would be corrected. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the Emergency Operation Plan with the mentioned revisions. 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, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Chris Pollins presented the concept for the next public art project to Council. Ms. Pollins explained the idea was to have a series of benches manufactured that depict the Galax leaf along with musical instruments, the pick logo, or other similar concepts.

Ms. Pollins said there would be ten benches which would be placed around the downtown area, police department, in front of Felts Park, etc. It was noted that funds from FY2015 were being held by CCSA for this project. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the public art project. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that the High Country Christmas Light Show Lights show would begin on Thanksgiving night and be up through January 2. He said the show would be from 6:00 to 11:00 PM each night.

Keith Barker told Council that the Galax Christmas Parade would be on December 4 at 7:00. The tree lighting ceremony would be at 6:30.

Keith Barker informed Council that at the time of the meeting, there were no pressing items for consideration by Council at the November 25 meeting. He said if Council agreed, the meeting could be canceled unless action items were required and at that point a called meeting could be planned. Councilman Lazo made the motion to cancel the November 25th meeting. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Lazo to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

Candidates for Employment, § 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia - Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.

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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:25 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:25 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk