

Galax City Council
Minutes
August 10, 2015

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on August 10, 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.

Vice Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 13, 2015. 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.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date advertised for a Public Hearing which concerned the proposed revisions to the Tattoo Parlor Ordinance. He asked Keith Barker, City Manager to describe the proposed changes. Mr. Barker explained that the current ordinance had references to practices that are no longer required by the state code and that do not necessarily reflect how tattoo parlors were currently operated. He added that the City Attorney has reviewed the ordinance and made the draft changes to be more closely aligned with the state code. Mr. Barker said the first major change reflected the elimination of a required x-ray for tattoo artists each year and instead referenced that an artist must comply with the state code regarding inspections and licensing. He said the second major change eliminated the section which concerned needle sterilization since parlors now use disposable needles. In closing he said that minors would still need parental permission to get a tattoo. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. There were none. Mayor Mitchell declared the Public Hearing closed. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the revisions to the Tattoo Parlor Ordinance. 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, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date advertised for a Public Hearing which concerned the proposed ordinance to regulate proposed EMS providers. He opened the floor for public comments. Chief Ron Passmore, of Galax Grayson Emergency Medical Service addressed Council stating that his purpose in being there was to give some details regarding the request of a proposed adoption of an EMS Ordinance by the GGEMS Board. Chief Passmore said that there was not a process or ordinance in place protecting the ability for GGEMS to provide services such as transport and other services to the area. He noted that Council adopted a resolution in 2012 which designated Galax Grayson EMS as the emergency responding agency within Galax. The ordinance also recognized any agency in place prior to 2012 as being permitted to operate. He said however, any additional agency which would seek permission to operate would need to be considered by Council prior to receiving permission to operate. He said the intent was to provide a service within the City that provided for the public safety and welfare, but also would consider the viability of a service that may seek a franchise within the City.

Chief Passmore closed by saying that Grayson County was considering adoption of a similar ordinance in September and Carroll essentially had one in place at this time. Keith Barker stated the proposed ordinance had been reviewed by the City Attorney and was ready for consideration by Council. With no further comments, Mayor Mitchell declared the Public Hearing closed. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the EMS Ordinance. 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.

Keith Barker informed Council that he had continued to work with DHCD concerning amending our Enterprise Zone. Mr. Barker said that letters were sent to every affected property owner whose property would be removed from the zone. He said that the final zone which was given to Council for review was based on those comments, and which had been reviewed by DHCD. Mr. Barker said the next steps for the amendment were to advertise and conduct a public hearing for Galax, and to seek a resolution of support from Carroll and Grayson Counties since the revisions would be to our “shared zone”. Mr. Barker asked City Council to set September 14, 2015 @ 7:30 PM as the public hearing for the Enterprise Zone amendments. He closed by saying that he had sent requests for support on the amendments to the counties and expected them to take action in September. Councilman Garner made the motion to set September 14, 2015 @ 7:30 PM as the public hearing for the Enterprise Zone amendments. Vice Mayor 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.

Mayor Mitchell welcomed Dr. Dean Sprinkle, Wytheville Community College President, who introduced himself to City Council and spoke briefly about WCC. Mayor Mitchell noted just how beneficial WCC has been for our community and thanked Dr. Sprinkle for attending the meeting.

Keith Barker informed Council about the Wastewater Discharge Survey Program. He explained that as part of our Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit for the wastewater treatment program, DEQ had asked that we develop a survey for new non-residential connections to determine their possible impact on the wastewater collection system. Mr. Barker said that while DEQ staff had in the past permitted Galax to qualify for an exemption from this requirement, DEQ staff now interpreted the pertaining regulations differently and had asked for a program to be put in place. He noted that the program given to Council to look at was prepared by Edwin Ward, City Engineer, and had been submitted and approved by DEQ. Edwin Ward explained that the survey would begin right away and it would be a short survey (1 page, front and back) would be obtained for any new application for a non-residential water/sewer account. He said Staff would assist with the survey as required; however the survey was straightforward and most businesses will not be impacted.

Keith Barker addressed Council regarding the City’s Water Treatment Plant and Preliminary Engineering Review (PER) grant request. Mr. Barker explained that a recent inspection of our Water Treatment Plant (WTP) by Virginia Department of Health (VDH) staff suggested that we look to develop a capital improvement plan for the facility and equipment. He further explained that we had been in contact with representatives from VDH about a possible planning grant application for up to \$25,000, with no match required.

Mr. Barker said the application required Council’s permission to apply for the grant and funds would be used in order to complete a comprehensive Preliminary Engineering Review (PER) of the Galax WTP. Mr. Barker explained that while we had performed some limited scope PER’s with a review of the electrical and some pump systems, this would complete a full study of the

Galax WTP and needs at the facility. He said that Grant applications were due September 1st. A resolution was given to Council for review and consideration. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the VDH Resolution to seek funding for the Water Treatment Plant PER, and to authorize the City Manager to sign the appropriate documents. 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.

Keith Barker informed Council about the VDOT HB2 Program. Mr. Barker explained that VDOT had held a series of meetings in mid to late July concerning the funding programs. He said as part of this year's legislation, a portion of funding for the VDOT 6-Year Project funding had been developed into a new program called the VDOT HB2 Program. He explained the intent was that VDOT and localities develop 6-year projects that are actually developed and constructed within the 6 year reference. Only projects included in an HB2 application (due September 30) would be considered for this funding cycle, existing funded projects would not be affected. The applications are competitively graded and there would be a total of \$46M available for the next 6 years to all localities in the Salem district. Only projects along Rt. 58 (E. Stuart Drive), or within a limited distance, would be eligible and must address criteria such as economic development, safety, congestion, etc. Mr. Barker said that he had met with local VDOT representatives about possible projects and narrowed some options down to three possible projects which included: Cranberry Road widening from Glendale Road to E. Stuart Drive. Intersection work at the Glendale/Cliffview Road intersection, and sidewalk installation along E. Stuart Drive. He stated that the Cranberry Road project seemed to be the best project to submit since it addressed economic development for sites along Cranberry Road, the new Sheetz location, and the Jack Guynn Industrial Park. He said this project would meet the criteria for consideration under safety, economic development, and congestion. Intersection work at Glendale/Cliffview Roads would be the second priority project and the sidewalk work along E. Stuart Drive could be considered a safety project, but we would be limited in the areas of installation due to the overall length of the route. Mr. Barker said that additional projects could be added at the September 14th meeting and Council would be required to adopt a resolution naming the projects at that meeting. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to accept the HB2 Projects as presented. 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.

Mayor Mitchell told Council and the attendees about a Proclamation which will be given to honor Dr. Oliver McBride upon his pending retirement on August 18th. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the Proclamation. 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.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

