

Galax City Council

Minutes

January 25, 2016

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 25, 2016 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, and Councilman Davis. Councilman Lazo was absent.

Mayor Mitchell 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 January 11, 2016. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell welcomed Corbin Stone from Robinson Farmer Cox Associates, LLC who presented the FY2015 audit review to Council. Mr. Stone commended Judy Taylor-Gallimore and her staff for their efforts in assisting his staff with the audit and for good record keeping. Mayor Mitchell thanked Mr. Stone and his staff as well as Ms. Taylor-Gallimore for a job well done.

Chief Clark presented an ordinance for consideration to Council. Chief Clark explained that the Galax Police Department was notified by their current vendor that the computer program used for all the records management system will no longer be supported beyond FY20. He said the former company that developed the system was no longer in business and the company that took over their business would no longer provide IT support. He said this was the system used for all records management, CAD, incident based reporting, evidence tracking, warrants, etc. The ordinance which was presented would collect \$5 per court case for electronic summons software, which would be a function of the overall records management system. The fee could be used to defray the costs to replace the current software program. E-911 would be responsible for the CAD portion of the purchase and there have been discussions of partnering with Carroll County on a shared server which would possibly further reduce our initial investment. Chief Clark said the estimated cost of our share of the program is \$50k - \$70k. The adoption of the ordinance would require that the funds be set aside specifically for this purchase but we could track it separately through our Finance Department. If the fee doesn't completely pay for the software, it should significantly reduce the costs. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to set February 8th, 2016 as the public hearing for the Electronic Summons System Fee Ordinance. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that Jen Surber, with Harmony Village, requested Council to consider the adoption of a resolution which would approve their parcel as a "revitalization area" under the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA). He explained this was the same resolution that City Council considered for Harmony House in January 2015.

Representatives with VHDA have said that City Council could designate a parcel or parcels as a revitalization area under the program with no adverse effect to other properties in the area. Mr. Barker said with the requested designation, the properties within it would become eligible for possible tax credits from VHDA that could be used for renovation to the building(s). Councilman Garner made the motion to approve the resolution and authorize the City Manager to send the support letter as requested. Councilman Davis 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance requested that February 8, 2016 be set as the date for a public hearing for a FY2016 Budget Amendment. She explained that since the overall change would represent more than 1% increase in the budget, the public hearing was required. Additional spending items included the Veterans Memorial, CCSA Woodworking Shop Operations, and Safe Routes to School. Ms. Taylor-Gallimore closed by saying that we were also working on additional changes in the budget to accommodate spending in the Registrar Office and in the Juvenile Probation, Detention Center expenses. Councilwoman Crouse made them motion to set February 8, 2016 as a public hearing for an amendment to the FY2016 Budget. Councilwoman Plichta 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker explained that last September Council approved the submission of a funding project to VDOT through the HB-2 Funding Program. He said this was the new competitive application program created through legislation last year which intended to fund some road improvements projects along specific routes in the state. Galax submitted an application for improvements to Cranberry Road, between E. Stuart Drive and Glendale Road, with the intentions to widen the road and provide easier access for truck and vehicle traffic to the Jack Guynn Industrial Park and the Cranberry Office Park. Mr. Barker said while a final award had not been approved yet, our project ranked #26 of the 321 projects submitted, and was one of the top 4 projects in the Salem District. The potential award at this point would be approximately \$3,067,121 with no local match. Mr. Barker closed by saying there were still a series of statewide public hearings on the projects and a final award would be made in June and if we received funding, the project would not start construction until FY2019 or FY2020.

At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Plichta to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia:

Prospective Business or Industry, § 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.

Purchase of Property, § 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia - Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining

Councilman Davis 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:22 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, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:22 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk