

Galax City Council

Minutes

June 13, 2016

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on June 13, 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, Councilman Lazo, and Councilman Davis.

Councilwoman Crouse prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell gave special recognition to Councilman Dr. Robert Lazo whose term on Council will be ending on June 30th. Dr. Lazo will be moving out of the City of Galax. Mayor Mitchell recognized Dr. Lazo for his time as a Galax City Councilman and thanked him for his 12 years of service in that role.

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on May 23, 2016. 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.

Mayor Mitchell presented and read aloud the details of the proposed FY2017 Galax City Budget. Council was asked for approval of the budget as presented. The public hearing was conducted at the May 23 meeting.

FY17 Proposed Budget

- General Fund Budget (including DSS) - \$17,683,617
- Utility Fund Budget - \$ 3,147,790

Proposed tax rates represent no change in our current rates and remain at:

- Real Estate - \$0.755 per \$100
- Personal Property - \$2.25 per \$100
- Machinery & Tools - \$1.50 per \$100

Councilman Davis made the motion to approve the FY17 Galax City Budget. 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.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date that was set for the public hearing for the proposed Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) and Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN). Keith Barker explained that the Bond Anticipation Note was for design work at the Waste Water Treatment Facility. This was the \$600,000 line item called out in the proposed utility budget. He said the Revenue Anticipation Note for 1,500,000 did not require a public hearing due to the limited term on the note (6 months). Mr. Barker said these funds would be used to assist with cash flow for the Rt. 58 Reserve Blvd. Project, our FY2017 paving, and getting our schools on a regular cash flow.

We sent packages to four local banks and received the two responses; one from Grayson National Bank and one from Carter Bank. While they were very similar, the staff recommendation was to proceed with Grayson National Bank for both bonds since they were slightly lower on the BAN. Mr. Barker asked Council to consider which bank to proceed with on the bond packages. He closed by saying that we would bring back a final resolution at the July 11 meeting and complete paperwork after that. Mayor Mitchell asked for any public comments. There were none. Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve Grayson National Bank for both bonds. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea. Councilman Garner abstained from voting.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date that was set for the public hearing for the motor vehicle license fee ordinance. Mayor Mitchell explained this ordinance would eliminate the car decal and replace it with a license fee collected in December with personal property taxes. The floor was opened for public comments. There were none. Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the motor vehicle license fee 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 City Council set for consideration of the food establishments ordinance. Keith Barker explained that Ron Passmore spoke on the draft ordinance at the last meeting. He said recent meetings with the Health Department staff had brought up a possible issue with how some of our festivals operate. Smoke on the Mountain would allow competitors to give away their barbeque after competition ends, which in the past had been acceptable to the Health Department. The Health Department Inspectors had indicated going forward that each competitor giving away samples would have to pay a \$40 state permit fee and be inspected like any for profit food provider. He said the Health Department provided a draft ordinance as a means to eliminate that fee and inspection. The ordinance basically would eliminate the fee and inspection for charitable non-profits, our schools (sport concessions), City of Galax events (Lords Acre Sale, Fire Department concessions, Recreation Department), etc. It would not eliminate the fee and inspection for vendor trailers such as the ones that are at the Fiddlers Convention, Houston Fest, or food court during Smoke on the Mountain. The ordinance was reviewed and amended by our attorney and was similar to ordinances in Grayson, Floyd, and other localities. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comments. After comments from Mr. Helmick, Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. Councilman Lazo made the motion to approve the ordinance. 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.

Keith Barker asked Council to set July 11 as a public hearing date for an amendment to the FY2016 Budget. He further explained that while we were closing out the current budget, there are revenue and expenditure line items that needed to be adjusted to reflect overall changes in the budget. As the changes represented an amount greater than 1% of the current budget, a public hearing was required. He said we had checked with our auditor to verify an amendment after the

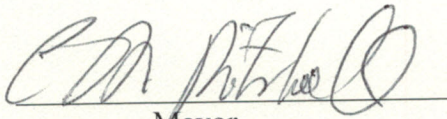
fiscal year was complete was acceptable, which he confirmed was acceptable and had been done by other localities. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to set July 11th as a public hearing for a FY2016 budget amendment. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that Chris Pollins with the Public Art Committee had requested Council consider a Council appointee to the committee. He said Ms. Crouse, the current Council appointee, had asked to be replaced due to other commitments and an inability to attend daytime meetings. He said Councilman-elect Ches Helmick had been very involved in the group in the past and had expressed interest in appointment. Councilwoman Plichta had expressed interest in the event Mr. Helmick declines the appointment. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to appoint Ches Helmick to the committee. 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.

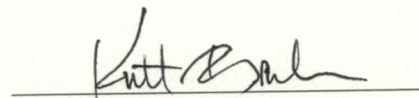
Keith Barker informed Council when the 2016 Council meetings were set, the date of August 8th was overlooked as one of the dates of the 2016 Fiddlers Convention. He said the first night of competition would be August 8, the same as the August Council meeting. He asked if Council would like to move the meeting date from August 8th to August 15th. Councilman Garner made the motion to change the date of the August 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.

Councilwoman Plichta thanked Councilman Lazo for his dedication to the City.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:55 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

