

Galax City Council

Minutes

November 14, 2016

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 14, 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 Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Councilman Davis prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 24, 2016. Councilman Helmick 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that he had spoken with John Ebert of Appalachian Natural Gas (ANG) to obtain information on their efforts to bring natural gas to the Galax area. Mr. Barker said as part of their purchase of the Carroll County natural gas system in 2015, we supported ANG's permit with the SCC to bring natural gas to Galax, however we requested a 5 year sunset clause so that were not left indefinitely with no options for natural gas in Galax. Mr. Barker explained on October 25 he met with Mr. Ebert and representatives of Utility Pipeline Limited (UPL). He said UPL was a larger natural gas supplier that served Ohio, based out of Canton. ANG was partnering with UPL in order to obtain more capital for expansion and to improve overall cost efficiency in operations. They had begun looking at the Galax extension and at their request we provided a list of companies and contacts that have agreed to speak with them as possible anchor tenants. Mr. Barker said they expected to make contact with those company officials within 6 – 8 weeks of our October 25 meeting. On October 31, we received official notice from the SCC of the company merger. Mr. Barker closed by saying the City would continue to work with ANG/UPL with follow up meetings to make sure the potential project would move forward as described.

Judy Bolt, HR Director was present to discuss Galax Employee Handbook Revisions. Ms. Bolt informed Council that effective December 1, 2016 the Department of Labor would be increasing the salary threshold for employees to be considered exempt from overtime requirements from \$23,660 to \$ 47,476 per year. Ms. Bolt explained the Registrar's salary would fall under the new threshold and would entitle her to receive overtime pay. Keith Barker explained that we receive a portion of her salary as a reimbursement from the state, and no additional funding would be provided for an overtime event. Ms. Bolt said in lieu of paying overtime, we were allowed to offer compensatory time off. Mr. Barker had spoken to Registrar Stacey Reavis, and said she recognized the limitations on state funding and had agreed to the compensatory time rather than paid overtime.

Ms. Bolt closed by saying with this change, we would need to add the following to the Employee Handbook §3.1.1 Overtime Pay: *In lieu of overtime compensation, compensatory time off at the rate of not less than one and one-half hours may be awarded to the General Registrar for each*

hour of employment for which overtime is required. Accrued compensatory time must be used within a reasonable amount of time. Payment is made for compensatory time upon termination or when accrued time exceeds 240 hours.

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the amendment to the City of Galax Employee Handbook. 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

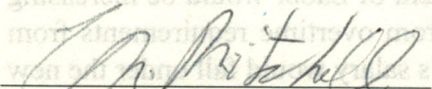
Mayor Mitchell informed Council that the Galax School Board would conduct a second round of interviews of architects on November 29 for the Galax Elementary School project. He said interviews would begin at 7:00 PM and each architect would have one hour for presentations. The schools provided additional information to each architect concerning the budget, information on total costs, etc. City Council was asked to attend and would be asked to offer feedback on the firms and designs at that date or a later date.

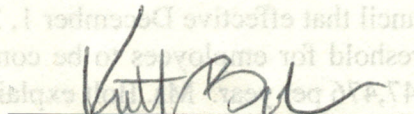
Mayor Mitchell announced that William Bottomley had agreed to bring his High Country Christmas Light Show back to Galax for 2016. Mayor Mitchell said Mr. Bottomley had been setting up the light show and it would begin on Thanksgiving Night and run through January 2. The show would be from 6:00 to 11:00 PM each night. He said the Galax Band Boosters and American Legion Post 245 would be offering refreshments each weekend. The Galax Fire Department would have a donation box for the Galax Community Chest available also.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council of the Galax Christmas parade which would be on December 2 at 7:00 PM with a tree lighting ceremony and music at 6:00 at the Galax Police Department.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council there were no pressing items for consideration by Council at the November 28 meeting. Mayor Mitchell explained if Council agreed, we could cancel that meeting unless action items were required. At that point we could call a meeting. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to cancel the November 28 meeting. Councilman Helmick 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8: 00 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk