

Galax City Council
Minutes
December 12, 2016

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on December 12, 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.

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

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 14, 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that he was pleased to announce the City of Galax Bottom Area Project was recognized at the 2016 Governors Housing Conference as the Best Housing Preservation/Rehabilitation Project. He said the City Staff had worked tirelessly over the last three years on the Bottom Area Project (Phase I & II), and accomplished some major milestones in the neighborhood which included: reconstruction of the stormwater system, construction of 7 new houses, rehabilitation of 11 houses, facade grants to 10 business properties, 2 cleanup events, and home maintenance education to all homeowners. He said the City departments involved included: Finance, Engineering, Public Works, Police, Social Services, Grants Administration, and the City Manager's Office. Mr. Barker said without the efforts and hard work of individuals within each department, this project would not have been successful. Councilwoman Plichta told Keith Barker that she appreciated his leadership in the Bottom Area Project.

Keith Barker informed Council that we had been approved by DHCD for the full planning grant for the Bottom Area Project Phase III. He explained while the grant application would be limited to the area from Shaw Street to approximately Eastview Street, all engineering studies would be from Shaw Street to Poplar Knob Road. He said while no action was required of Council at this time, there would be required public notices and meetings in January and February as part of the application.

Keith Barker explained at the November 2016 meeting Council authorized changes to the employee handbook due to proposed changes with the Department of Labor and the new salaried/exempt guidelines. Mr. Barker said those new regulations were stuck down on November 22. He further explained with the change, we needed to delete the recently added language 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.* Mr. Barker closed by saying if and when the law would change again, we would consider bringing back an amended version of the handbook for consideration at that time.

Councilwoman Plichta made a motion to delete the language in the City of Galax Employee Handbook regarding overtime pay for the General Registrar. 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

Keith Barker addressed Council regarding the bids for a new sanitation truck. Mr. Baker explained that we provided in the current budget for the purchase of a new sanitation truck to replace one of the current trucks which ranged in age from 10 years to 17 years old. He said the low bid for financing came from Carter Bank. He said that Carter Bank was notified of the winning bid a few months ago and told them we would complete the loan when the truck was complete and delivered since there was a large lead time from order to completion. Mr. Barker said the truck was just delivered and as part of the loan, Carter Bank had asked that Council accept the loan terms and authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary documentation to complete the loan.

Mr. Barker said Staff was recommending the 6 year, 1.75% interest rate option. He said Council had approved a \$1 per month increase in sanitation rates which would cover the debt service with this truck based on this financing option. He closed by saying the intent was to consider purchasing a new truck every six years, which was the recommended life span of the vehicle. Councilman Garner made the motion to accept the 6 year, 1.75% loan offered by Carter Bank and to authorize Keith Barker, City Manager to complete all necessary paperwork with Carter Bank. 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.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority (BRCEDA) had been soliciting banks for the possible refinancing of the Wildwood Commerce Park on Exit 19. Keith Barker explained with interest rates lower than the original loan, BRCEDA felt that a lower rate would reduce costs and provide increased operational funds for the organization. Consideration was given to the interest rate, closing costs, etc. Mr. Barker said Grayson National Bank provided the overall best terms which after closing would reduce our yearly costs by approximately \$77,000. The loan was a refinancing of the total original loan, however any surplus funds would be used to cover the closing costs, attorney fees, etc. Mr. Barker noted the amount refinanced would be \$5 million. GNB was requiring the Moral Obligation Resolution, which was presented to Council, to be adopted by each partner locality. Grayson County considered theirs on December 8 and Carroll County was on December 12. Councilman Garner made the motion to adopt the Moral Obligation Resolution as presented. 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 announced that we had been approached in the past about the limitations on yard sale signage, and recently Councilman Helmick was also approached about allowing more signage. Mr. Barker said currently the ordinance restricted yard sale signage to the residence where the yard sale was conducted. He said the Police Department would typically remove off premise signage as time permitted. Mr. Barker said issues with additional signage could include when placed, when removed, how far from the residence, placement in the ROW (which could be someone else's mowed yard), etc. Council was asked by Mr. Barker to see if they wanted to consider amending the ordinance. After a brief discussion by Council, it was agreed upon to form a committee. Councilwoman Crouse and Councilman Helmick agreed to serve on the committee to discuss the signage issue for yard sales. Councilman Garner suggested doing a community

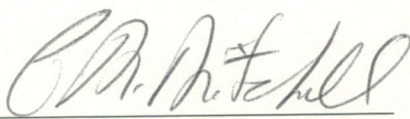
bulletin board to list the yard sales on. Mr. Barker noted that through social media such as Facebook, Newspapers, etc., citizens could advertise their yard sales. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to establish a committee consisting of Councilwoman Crouse and Councilman Helmick to further discuss the issue of yard sale signage, and to discuss it at a later meeting. 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council of a request to consider revisions to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Mr. Barker further explained in January 2010, the thirteen (13) political jurisdictions in the New River Valley and Mount Rogers Area entered into an agreement which utilized Joint Powers of Authority to execute their legal obligations under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which formed themselves into a legal entity for the purpose of securing additional grants and outside funding. In 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) replaced WIA effective July 2015. He said due to that change, the originally approved Consortium Board Agreement had been revised to bring it in compliance with WIOA. This revision required that the new Consortium Board Agreement be approved by ordinance for all thirteen (13) political jurisdictions as was originally done. Mr. Barker explained the revised Consortium Board Agreement and Ordinance had both been reviewed and revised by Stephen Durbin, Attorney, with Sands Anderson. He noted the Consortium Board Agreement which was shown to Council, was approved earlier by the Executive Committee of the Consortium Board. Council was asked to set a public hearing for January 9, 2017 to consider the matter. A final approval was not required until April 1, 2017. Councilman Garner made the motion to set January 9, 2017 as the date for the public hearing to consider revisions to the WIOA agreement. 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

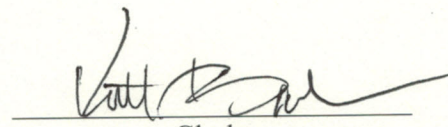
Keith Barker reminded City Council of the tour at Vaughan Bassett on Tuesday December 13 from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM. He said the tour would be with management to discuss their current operations, new product development and lines, and continued commitment to the City and our region.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that the December 26 meeting had been scheduled on a City holiday. He asked if there was a motion from Council to consider canceling the meeting. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to cancel the December 26 meeting. 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 Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8: 15 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

