

Galax City Council
Minutes
July 14, 2014

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on July 14, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

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 Lazo. Councilman Webb was absent.

Councilman Garner 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 June 9, 2014, and the called meeting of June 16, 2014. 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, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Judge J.D. Bolt administered the oath to CM Mitchell, Willie Greene, John Garner, and Margo Crouse. He also expressed his gratitude for the support that he receives from council.

City Manager Keith Barker called for nominations from council for the appointment of Mayor. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion that C.M. Mitchell be appointed to another term as Mayor. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Garner-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Mayor Mitchell called for nominations from Council for the appointment of Vice-Mayor. Councilman Garner made the motion that Willie Greene be appointed to another term as Vice-Mayor. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Garner-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell -yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Mayor Mitchell recognized the following Galax High School students, then read aloud proclamations which were given to each in honor of their accomplishments:

- Cliff Conley, 1600 Meter State Champion
- Galax High School Soccer Team, 1A State Champions
- Mario Carranza, Group 1A Boys' Soccer Player of the Year

Mayor Mitchell recognized the retirement of Michael Dees, Galax Recreation Center – Senior Activities Director, and presented him a plaque for his years of service.

This is the date set for City Council to appropriate the City of Galax FY2015 Budget that was approved at the June 9, 2014 meeting. The FY2015 Budget amounts are:

- General Fund Budget (including DSS) - \$20,371,822
- Utility Fund Budget - \$ 2,661,490

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to appropriate the City of Galax FY2015 Budget. 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, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

This is the date set for City Council to appropriate the Galax School FY2015 Budget that was approved at the June 9, 2014 meeting. The Galax School Budget total is \$14,245,863 with a local funding level of \$3,956,823 for operations and \$479,700 in debt service. Councilman Garner made the motion to appropriate the Galax School FY2015 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, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Mayor Mitchell told Council that as they were aware, Ms. Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance, was directed by Council earlier to seek possible funding for a revenue anticipation loan if a state budget was not passed. He said that Gov. McAuliffe signed the state budget on June 20 which would provide continuing state funds. Finally he added that as the state budget was passed, no quotes for a revenue anticipation loan were received.

Mayor Mitchell explained to Council that part of the regional enterprise zone application required each locality to adopt the resolution which was presented to Council earlier in their packets. Keith Barker told Council that the resolution was actually not provided until after the June City Council meeting. He noted that in order to submit the application before the end of June, he signed it and asked Council to approve and ratify that document. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the Resolution and ratify the City Manager's submittal of the document. 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, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that the Department of Social Services Advisory Board had 4 appointments that needed to be filled along with a Council appointed member. He said that Ms. Susan Clark had spoken to each of the individuals on the prospective board members list. Keith Barker announced that Mayor Mitchell had agreed to serve as the Council representative and the possible appointees were: Dr. Art Pemberton, Theda Early, Regina Snow, Dr. Eugenia Larrowe, and Lynne Barker. Council was also asked to stagger the appointments at 2 years and 4 years. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve Mayor Mitchell as the Council appointed representative. 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 Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to appoint Dr. Art Pemberton, Theda Early, Regina Snow, and Dr. Eugenia Larrowe to the DSS Advisory Board. 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 Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

It was also agreed upon that Theda Early & Dr. Eugenia Larrowe will be appointed for 2 years to the board. Dr. Art Pemberton, Regina Snow, & Mayor Mitchell will be appointed for 4 years.

Council was told by Mayor Mitchell that Tim Lewis was appointed to the Rooftop Board at the June City Council meeting, he noted, that he was leaving our employment at the end of July. Mr.

Barker explained that while his position is transitioned, he would be attending the Rooftop meetings as the Galax alternate and that an appointment would be considered at a later date.

David Richardson, Transit Director for District III, gave an update on transit services in Galax that are provided by District III.

Keith Barker told Council that the Delinquent Tax List which was given to them prior to the meeting was effective as of June 30, and also that Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance, asked for approval to publish. He noted that we would remove any accounts from the list that were paid between 7/1/14 and the date the list was sent to the paper for publication. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the publication of the Delinquent Tax List. 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 Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Mayor Mitchell told Council that the appointment of John Garner to the District III Board of Commissioners expired on June 30, 2014. He asked Council to appoint a representative and alternate to the board. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to re-appoint Councilman Garner. 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 Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to re-appoint Councilman Webb. 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 Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Mr. Jeff Sharpe has submitted his resignation on the Galax Planning Commission. Mr. Barker told Council that if they so desired, that an advertisement would be placed for citizens interested in serving on the Commission and bring back names at a later date.

Mayor Mitchell told Council that all of the applicants for Solid Waste Haulers for the City of Galax have provided applications, fee schedules and proof of insurance. He noted that all applicants have provided complete applications and they included: Waste Industries, Waste Management, Grayson County and JDM Services, Inc. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the applications for FY2015. 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 Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Keith Barker explained to Council that Ron Passmore had requested that the area available for Smoke on the Mountain be increased due to an increase in participating teams. He noted that with the combination of the Memphis in May and Kansas City competitions, the number of teams that will compete had increase to 35. Mr. Barker said that the request was to use the parking lot across from the Rex Theater and close Grayson St. from Jefferson St. to Carroll St. He further noted that the City Electrician would be seeing how we can accommodate electrical service in this area also. He told Council that the Rex Theater would still be open for the Friday night Blue Ridge Backroads Show. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to allow the area for Smoke on the Mountain to be increased. 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 Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo–yea.

Mayor Mitchell reminded Council that there would be a joint meeting with Galax School Board on July 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Galax Municipal Building to discuss possible sites for a future elementary school.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk