

Galax City Council
Called Meeting
Minutes
June 16, 2021

Galax City Council convened for a called meeting in the City Council Chambers on June 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

At 10:00 a.m. Mayor Greene called the meeting to order with the following Council persons present: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr. Councilwoman White was absent.

Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and led pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Greene explained the reason for the meeting was to hold a public hearing regarding an ordinance concerning the salaries for Council. The date/time was set by Council previously and was advertised.

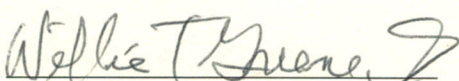
Mayor Greene declared the public hearing open for comments. Keith Barker informed Council as discussed in a previous meeting; Council pay had not been increased since a vote in 2003 with the effective change in July 2006. He explained the Code of Virginia allowed a Council to increase its pay, however it had to occur 4 months prior to the next general election and the effective date could not be before July 1. He said that Council was within that window if they chose to consider an increase in Council compensation. He added the effective date would be July 2022 and would be included in the City's bi-weekly payroll.

Mr. Barker further explained that Council members currently receive \$1000 each annually for their service, and that was far below other communities around us, including our school board. He noted as a reference, the Galax School Board raised their salary from \$250 yearly to \$4800 per year approximately 2 years ago. Mr. Barker also provided pay amounts from other local board of supervisors, town councils, and school boards for Council to review. He said per the Code of Virginia, Council could set a salary up to \$11500 for the mayor and \$11000 for all other Council members. A review of information and discussion by Council followed Keith Barker's explanation. With no further comments, Mayor Greene declared the public hearing closed.

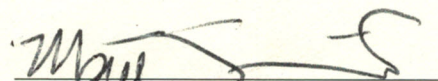
Following the review and discussion of increasing Council's salary, Vice Mayor Mitchell made the motion to set the annual salaries as follows: Mayor - \$7000, Vice Mayor - \$6500, and Council - \$6000. Councilman Warr seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

Vice Mayor Mitchell made the motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

ADJOURNED at 10:20 a.m.



Mayor



Clerk