

Galax City Council
Minutes
July 12, 2021

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on July 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Greene called the meeting to order with the following Council persons present and they are as listed: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Warr was absent.

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

In special action, Mayor Greene presented Johnny Dickson, a retiring Galax Police Department administration employee, with a plaque and a watch in appreciation for his years of service to the City of Galax.

Mayor Greene administered the Oath of Honor to Michael Tozzolo, a newly employed officer to the Galax Police Department. Councilman Haynes commended Officer Tozzolo for obtaining the rank of class president at the Police Academy and also receiving an award for physical fitness.

Chris Young, the City's IT Director, presented Council with an update of the City's security on our computers and steps to avoid viruses, ransomware, and issues.

City Manager - Mr. Settlemyer informed Council of the use of a consent agenda. He explained the new section on the agenda is used for routine and non-controversial items to be enacted by one motion without discussion. If a member of the governing body requests discussion of an item, the item would be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the following items on the consent agenda for July:

- Adoption of Minutes of June 1, 2021 Special Called Meeting.
- Adoption of Minutes of June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting.
- Adoption of Minutes of June 16, 2021 Special Called Meeting.

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

Mr. Settlemyer discussed items under unfinished business which included:

- **Appropriation of FY2022 Galax City Budget**

Mr. Settlemyer explained the numbers below were approved in June 2021 and include appropriated fund balance of \$225,000 as approved at that meeting.

- General Fund \$22,894,821
- Utility Fund \$3,315,500

- Stormwater Fund \$500,500

Vice Mayor Mitchell made the motion to appropriate the funds for the FY2022 Galax City Budget. Councilman Larrowe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

- **Appropriation of FY2022 Galax City Schools Budget**

Mr. Settlemyer informed Council the total budget was \$15,964,637 with local funds of \$4,062,714.

Vice Mayor Mitchell made the motion to appropriate the funds for the FY2022 Galax City Schools Budget. Councilwoman White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Mr. Settlemyer informed Council of new business items which included the following:

The need to approve the advertisement of delinquent taxes in the Gazette.

Councilwoman White made the motion to approve the request. 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, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Resolution in support of IRF application for 406 W. Oldtown St. (God’s Storehouse). Brenda Marrah – Grants Administrator spoke requesting permission to apply to DHCD’s 2022 Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) for 406 W. Oldtown Street in the amount of \$600,000. A proposed resolution was included in the approval request.

Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the request to apply for the IRF grant. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Mr. Settlemyer informed Council that since Galax received a greater allocation of funding from ARPA we needed to call a public hearing for August to do the budget amendments associated with this funding. He noted that we budgeted approximately \$1.2 million and our first allocation was in excess of \$3 million.

Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion to approve the public hearing for August for the budget amendments. Councilwoman Ritchie amended the motion to include the approval for advertising the public hearing. Councilwoman White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Brenda Marrah and Jimmy Moss informed Council of the need for a public hearing for two Transportation Alternative Project pre-applications that were submitted to VDOT for FY23.

One project included 225 linear ft. of sidewalk on each side of Main Street between Center & Washington Streets. Estimated cost \$649,000 with a required match of \$127,532.

After a discussion, Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the request for a public hearing at the August meeting and to authorize the City Manager to advertise the public hearing. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

The second project discussed was a Safe Routes to School completion of sidewalk to the Library. This would be approximately 450 linear feet of sidewalk on West Stuart Drive from McArthur to Murphy Street and crosswalks. Estimated cost would be \$217,500 with a required 20% match of \$43,495.

After discussing the Safe Routes to School Project, Councilwoman White made the motion to approve the public hearing at the August meeting and to authorize the City Manager to advertise the public hearing. 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, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Mayor Greene announced this was the date and time set for a public hearing to increase the courtroom security fee. Mayor Greene opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Settlemyer explained State legislation had changed to allow the courtroom security fee to increase from \$10 to \$20 as part of the fees charged for a criminal or traffic case. He said fees were then used to cover courtroom security and equipment. The public hearing was required to amend the ordinance. After a brief discussion among Council members, Mayor Greene closed the meeting after there were no further comments.

Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the ordinance increasing the courtroom security fee. Councilman Larrowe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

Mr. Settlemyer informed Council that he requested for the citizen comments section be moved up on the agenda so that communications from the Mayor and Council were the last action item on the agenda. There were no citizen comments.

Communication from City Manager

- **Mr. Settlemyer** informed Council of 2 upcoming meetings of importance for the City Council which included the T.G. Vaughan Project Work Session and the Regional Radio Interoperability Workshop.

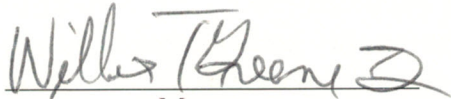
Communication from Mayor and City Council

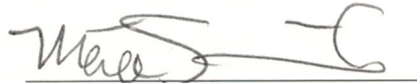
- **Councilwoman White** – Gave an update on God's Storehouse regarding working on how to bring back meals to the community. She invited the Boy Scouts that won 2nd place in The Great Race to lead our Pledge next month.

- **Councilwoman Ritchie** – Discussed the Bottom Area Project and the community picnic that was being planned to get more people to sign up for renovations and to also suggest getting the Covid vaccine. Asked about pots holes in the City and reported one.
- **Vice Mayor Mitchell** – Spoke on the Carroll-Grayson-Galax Solid Waste Authority and the construction that will be taking place to build a new area for trash.
- **Councilman Haynes** – Handed out maps to Council members to identify their assigned areas of the City to monitor. He also spoke about GGEMS and the grants they had been awarded to obtain a new ambulance and tough books.
- **Councilman Larrowe** – Updated Council about the Vaughan Project as well as District Three, and Work Force Development.
- **Mayor Greene** – Spoke briefly on the Mayor’s Conference and the Newly Elected Officials Conference.

Councilman Haynes 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, Councilwoman White, and Councilman Larrowe.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:15 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk