

Galax City Council
Minutes
December 13, 2021

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on December 13, 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, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

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

Special Action

- Angela Burris was recognized by Mayor Greene for her retirement from Galax Social Services. Ms. Burris was presented with a plaque and watch for her service (18 years & 2 months) to the City.

Communications from Staff, Boards, Commissions & Agencies

- Trish Fore, Library Director, provided an annual update on activities at the Galax Regional Library

Consent Agenda

Mayor Greene requested approval from Council for the following item on the consent agenda:

- Adoption of minutes of the November 8, 2021 regular meeting.

Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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, Councilwoman White, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

New Business

City Manager, Mr. Settlemyer informed Council of a Resolution to commit to a VDOT Revenue Sharing application for stormwater on Oldtown Street from Main Street to South Railroad Avenue. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to adopt the proposed resolution committing to the match and authorized the City Manager to execute documents as necessary. 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, Councilwoman White, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

Mayor Greene informed Council of a request to appoint a representative to the Mount Rogers Planning District Executive Committee. Vice Mayor Mitchell made the motion to re-appoint Mr. Ron Catron to the MRPDC Executive Committee. 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, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

Mayor Greene informed Council of a request to appoint a representative to the Mount Rogers Planning District Executive Committee (Minority Representative). Councilman Haynes made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Josepha Thompson to the MRPDC Executive Committee as the Minority Representative. 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, Councilwoman White, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

Mr. Settlemyer made a request of Council to extend the residency requirement for City Manager to June 30, 2022. Vice Mayor Mitchell made the motion to amend Mr. Settlemyer’s employment contract to extend the residency requirement until June 30, 2022. 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, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

Mr. Settlemyer gave a brief update of background information regarding the consideration of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to replace Tower 11 Ladder Truck at the Galax Fire Department. He informed Council that the RFPs were received on December 10th and the Fire Department staff had been reviewing the proposals.

Mr. Settlemyer explained that he had spoken with the City Attorney who gave 2 options on how to proceed after reviewing the RFP’s. (There were 4 vendors that submitted 5 RFP’s).

Option 1: Staff could negotiate with the top two vendors to answer questions and make final recommendations to Council. This option did not require any additional action at this meeting.

Option 2: If Council had a preferred choice, then make a motion that vendor was clearly most suited to City’s needs and the City intended to award a contract to the vendor.

Mr. Settlemyer noted that if option #1 was chosen, the top 2 vendors would be interviewed, then the preference would be brought back to Council at the next meeting. If option #2 was chosen and a decision was made at tonight’s meeting, then there would be a necessary 10 day waiting period required, and we would begin the work on a finance package.

Chief Ayers gave the GFD’s recommendation which was choice #1 – Pierce Arrow XT, 100’ Midmount Demo Truck, at a price of \$1,542,476. The vendor was Atlantic Emergency Solutions, Roanoke, VA. He said that he and others had continued the search for a suitable ladder truck, but

up until now, there had either been issues with the trucks they've looked at or checked on, or they don't have the necessary features that they needed. After much discussion with Council, they asked Chief Ayers to confirm the choice. After doing so, Chief Ayers asked for a letter of intent to send to the vendor, to confirm the City's decision. Mr. Settlemyer replied that he would discuss the letter of intent with the City's attorney and get that to him.

Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the Galax Fire Department's recommendation to choose option #1, Pierce Arrow XT from Atlantic Emergency Solutions. 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, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Warr.

Communication From City Manager

- Mr. Settlemyer reminded the newly elected Council members to be sworn in at the Grayson County Clerk of Court's office.
- Mr. Settlemyer informed Council that the City Manager's report was included in their agenda packet and he was available to answer any questions they may have.

Communication from Mayor and City Council

- Councilman Warr
 - VML magazine highlighting God's Storehouse
 - Positive comments - appearance of Downtown Galax
 - Volunteers are important & appreciated - lights on trees on Main Street
 - High Country Lights – suggested a donation from City
- Councilwoman White
 - Rooftop – Community Needs Assessments
 - Rooftop representative to be invited for a presentation
- Councilwoman Ritchie
 - Comprehensive Plan – completing soon
- Councilman Larrowe
 - Strategic Planning Session – Minutes available soon
 - Structure/Coordination of volunteers
 - Committees created for Council
 - Galax Development Corp. – documents being finalized
 - High Country Lights – tremendous resource for our community
 - Summer intern project
 - City preparation for Cannabis

- Councilman Haynes
 - Volunteerism – structure and a coordinator needed
 - Kentucky – discussed their need for donations

- Mayor Greene
 - Volunteer groups – recognition & meal to show appreciation
 - Winter Festival was great – suggested it to become an annual event

Vice Mayor Mitchell's Retirement

Mayor Greene honored Vice Mayor on behalf of the City to Vice Mayor Mitchell with an appreciation plaque and watch. Mayor Greene read the following inscribed on the plaque:

C. M. Mitchell, Jr.
 In recognition of your
 Vision, Leadership, and Dedication
 while serving on
 Galax City Council
 Councilman 7/1/1986 – 6/30/1992
 Mayor 7/1/1992 – 6/30/2020
 Vice-Mayor 7/1/2020 – 12/31/2021

Vice Mayor Mitchell said that he owed a debt of gratitude to the citizens of Galax for being chosen to serve and putting their trust in him. He then addressed the City of Galax Citizens, Staff & Council in a heartfelt farewell letter. After the letter was read, Vice Mayor Mitchell asked Mayor Greene if there was no further business to come forth, would he allow him the honor of making the last motion. After Mayor Greene gladly accepted his request, Vice Mayor Mitchell moved that the meeting of the Galax City Council be adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:35 p.m.



 Mayor



 Clerk