

Galax City Council
Minutes
August 8, 2022

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on August 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

At 6:05 p.m. Mayor Greene called the meeting to order with the following Council persons present and they are as listed: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck. Councilman Warr was absent.

Vice Mayor White prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Greene accepted a motion made by Vice Mayor White at 6:05 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

- **Personnel Matter § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.

Vice Mayor White seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

At 6:30 p.m. Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Greene certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia code section were discussed and no action was taken, with the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Council Meeting of July 11, 2022 - Councilman Henck made the motion to approve the July 11, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Councilman Larrowe seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Called Meeting of July 25, 2022 – Councilman Henck made the motion to approve the July 25, 2022 called meeting minutes. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

OLD BUSINESS

School Board Appointments

A public hearing regarding school board appointments was held on July 25, 2022. Council considered confirmation of the appointment of the incumbent members and appointment of a new member.

Motion and vote to confirm the appointment of Ms. Leah Henck for the term ending June 30, 2024. Councilman Haynes made the motion, Councilman Larrowe seconded the motion. Approval followed by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

Motion and vote to confirm the appointment of Mr. Brett Sexton for the term ending June 30, 2024. Vice Mayor White made the motion, Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion. Approval followed by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

Motion and vote to confirm the appointment of Mr. Larry Spangler for the term ending June 30, 2023. Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion, Councilman Haynes seconded the motion. Approval followed by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

Motion and vote to confirm the appointment of Rev. Dr. Kevin Rosenfeld for the term ending June 30, 2025. Councilman Larrowe made the motion, Vice Mayor White seconded the motion. Approval followed by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

There was one vacant seat remaining to be filled on the school board. The appointment to this seat was for the term ending June 30, 2025. The nominees as presented at the July 25, 2022 public hearing were: Mr. Jordan Anderson, Ms. Jessica Whitaker, Mr. Fred Mitchell, Ms. Lynn Sawyers, and Ms. Melissa Peddy.

The mayor called upon each council member to state the name of the nominee who he or she votes for to fill the vacant seat. Ms. Sawyers received one vote from Mayor Greene; Mr. Mitchell received one vote from Vice Mayor White; Ms. Whitaker received three votes from Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Ms. Peddy and Mr. Anderson received no votes from Council.

The mayor asked for a tally of the votes and then announced Ms. Jessica Whitaker received the majority of the votes. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to appoint Ms. Jessica Whitaker to the Galax School Board. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

Re-Zoning Request – John Brewer

Ms. Stephanie Dalton, Galax Zoning Administrator, informed Council of a rezoning request of parcel 36-61 (formerly 648 Glendale Road) and parcel 36-62. Mr. John Brewer had requested that two parcels be rezoned from B-2 Business General to R-2 Residential Medium Density so that he could construct a duplex. Both parcels were previously R-2 until 2013 when they were rezoned to B-2. Ms. Dalton shared the recommendations from the Planning Commission which were to approve Mr. Brewer’s request. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the request. Councilman Henck seconded the motion, and it was and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Amendment to City Code Notice of Illegal Parking

Interim City Manager, Judy Taylor-Gallimore informed Council of a request to make an amendment to § **148.80 Notice of Illegal Parking of the Code of the City of Galax**. Council discussed this code section at the July 11 meeting. The proposed ordinance would add an additional subsection to the existing **Section 148-80** to provide a process for the issuance of citations to General District Court if parking tickets have not been paid within five (5) days of issuance. The change required a public hearing. Council had voted to hold the public hearing at the August 8 meeting. However, we were unable to get the draft ordinance changes completed by this date. It was anticipated that the changes would be complete prior to the September 12 meeting. Vice Mayor White made the motion to set a public hearing for September 12 for comments regarding the proposed ordinance change. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion, and it was

and it was and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

NEW BUSINESS

Social Services Advisory Board Appointment

Council was made aware of three vacancies on the Social Services Advisory Board. The terms were for 4-year terms with a 2-term limit. The terms would begin on September 1, 2022. Councilman Henck’s seat was one of the vacancies. Ms. Taylor-Gallimore noted that Council could consider re-appointment of Councilman Henck and appointment of two additional board members. Letters of interest were received from: Mr. Bill Parks, Ms. Danielle Cooper, and Mr. Jordan Anderson. Vice Mayor White made the motion to re-appoint Councilman Henck, and appoint Mr. Bill Parks, and Mr. Jordan Anderson to the board. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Social Services Board Appointment - CPMT

Ms. Taylor-Gallimore informed Council of a request by Tammy Smith, Director of Social Services. She advised that Ms. Vicky Richardson, representative for the Galax Health Department, had requested that she be moved to alternate and that her Health Nurse, Paige Foutch, be made the primary representative for the Health Department. Vice Mayor White made the motion to appoint Paige Foutch to the CPMT board and name Vicky Richardson as the alternate to the CPMT Board. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Rooftop of VA CAP Board Appointment

Ms. Taylor-Gallimore informed Council of a request by Vicki Myers, Director of Rooftop. Ms. Myers asked that Council appoint a board member for their organization. Council may appoint a council member or other individual. Judy Bolt previously served on the board and there was an open seat due to her retirement. Councilwoman Beth White also serves on the Rooftop Board. After a discussion by Council, there was a consensus to hold until the September 12 meeting.

FY22 Budget Amendment – School Board

Susan Tilley, School Board Superintendent, presented a budget amendment for FY22. Due to the total amount of the amendment, a public hearing was required. The amendment was primarily due to increased federal grant funding. There was no change in the amount of support from the City. Councilman Haynes made the motion to authorize a public hearing for September 12, 2022 for amendment to the FY22 school budget. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilman Larrowe. Councilman Henck abstained due to a conflict of interest pursuant to **Code of Virginia 2.2-3112**.

Chestnut Creek School of the Arts Public Art Project

Ms. Chris Pollins made a request for a proposed public art project for the parking lot across from the Rex Theater. Illustrations of the project were given to Council. Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion to approve the request. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Resolution for Industrial Revitalization Grant

Judy Taylor-Gallimore introduced a Resolution for applying for an Industrial Revitalization Grant for \$1 Million. She reminded Council that a similar grant application was submitted in 2021, but not funded. She asked Jolena Young to provide an overview of the grant to Council. Ms. Young explained that legislators had provided \$22.5 Million in ARPA funds in addition to the normal \$2 - \$3 Million of available ARPA Funds. Additionally, the application could include COVID-19 impacts as part of the business case.

Councilman Larrowe made the motion to adopt the resolution. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Animal Shelter – Locality Agreement

Ms. Taylor-Gallimore discussed the 1979 agreement to form the regional animal shelter. The document states that the parties to the agreement would appoint two members to a joint committee to operate the shelter, prepare a budget, etc. Council may wish to discuss formation of this committee in the future. After Council discussed, there was a consensus to discuss with the Counties of Carroll and Grayson, then bring back to the September meeting.

Appointment of City Clerk

Ms. Taylor Gallimore informed Council of **Section 3.06 of the City Charter** which requires council to elect a city clerk who shall keep the journal of its proceedings and shall record all ordinances. Previously, the City Manager had served in this capacity. Ms. Taylor-Gallimore requested Council to make this designation for June 2, 2022 forward.

Councilman Henck made the motion to designate Judy Taylor-Gallimore as clerk of the Galax City Council for purposes of authenticating documents and official records of Council from June 2 – August 14, 2022. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Councilman Haynes made the motion to designate Barry Moore as clerk of the Galax City Council with an effective date of August 15, 2022. Councilman Larrowe seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

PUSH Ministries

Ms. Jill Burcham from PUSH Ministries was present to provide in depth information to City Council regarding needs of the homeless in the City.

Communication from City Manager

Ms. Taylor-Gallimore informed Council the schedule of aged delinquent real estate tax was included in the packet as requested at the last council meeting.

COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES Councilman Larrowe

- Need for transportation and daycares
- Economic Analysis
- Setting a date for Audit Committee meeting
- IT Exam – Proposal for services

- Tax Relief – Elderly & Disabled
- SWVA Summit – Aug. 29
- District Three
 - Assistance for Seniors,
 - Enrollment Centers assist with inflation issues
 - Expanding Guardianship Services
- Galax Development Corporation Update
 - Small Area Plan
 - Developer working on plan
- Kipling Lane – Housing Project

Vice Mayor White

- Tourism Committee
 - Parking space numbering for festivals
 - Establishing Festival Policy & Procedures in place by December 2022
 - National Night Out – Well organized, a premier event for Galax

Mayor Greene

- Discussed Tourism Office and talking with Tourists

Councilwoman Ritchie

- More Tourists coming to Galax
- Complimented Patti Price-Love for her efforts in Tourism

Councilman Henck

- Delinquent Taxes
 - Requested a document so delinquent taxes can be tracked better
 - Bank Building across from Macado's – Pursuing 25K in delinquent taxes owed
- Discussed Commerce Committee
 - Toured the following businesses:
 - Mt. Joy Naturals
 - River Rose Counseling
 - Boss Lumber – Assisted in working with Public Works to stop water run off
- Support for Dept. Soc. Serv. regarding salaries
- Discussed Public Services Committee
 - Issue of weeds / sidewalks
 - City building awnings poor condition
 - Flooding Issues – Webster Street
 - Repair of Electrical Outlets – South Main Street

CITIZEN COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per person)

Mr. Dave Bremmer discussed his recent move to Galax, his purchase of properties including the Doctor's Inn, and the former Dr. Edward Dannelly home – both on W. Stuart Drive. He shared his development ideas with Council on future plans of other properties that he owns in Galax. Mr. Bremmer said Galax was a wonderful City with southern hospitality.

ADJOURN

With no further business or comments, Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Henck seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk