

Galax City Council  
Minutes  
October 11, 2022

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on October 11, 2022, 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 White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck. Councilman Warr and City Manager, Barry N. Moore were absent.

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

### **SPECIAL ACTION**

- Mike Brown from the Galax Water Treatment Plant accepted a Gold Award for Drinking Water presented by Lisa Crabtree, CSP District Engineer VA Dept. of Health, Office of Drinking Water in Abingdon.
- Galax High School Student Athletes in Swimming, Tennis, and Soccer were presented proclamations from Council for winning at the state level at the VHSL Sports Championship Competitions. Councilman Henck made the motion to approve the proclamations. Councilman Larrowe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### Regular Council Meeting of September 12, 2022

Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the September 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

VDOT Resolutions – Jolena Young, Grants Administrator gave an update and requested adoption of resolutions which included the following:

- Council was asked to adopt a resolution in support of a Virginia Department of Transportation Highway Safety Improvement Grant to update intersections to install pedestrian signal heads, audible signaling and other ADA requirements. The grant would require no match. This project would improve Grayson Street and Oldtown Market intersections. Vice Mayor White made the motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.
- Council was asked to adopt a resolution to authorize the City Manager to sign agreements and modifications of agreements to advance VDOT funded projects. The agreement must be updated

every four (4) years. The resolution is required for the City Manager to finalize the contract for the E Stuart Drive Signal Modification at Food City Intersection. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

### Rosenwald Felts Sale of Building

Council discussed the request for the proposed sale of the City owned Rosenwald Felts School to Rooftop for continued use by Head Start, the current lessee. City officials have been and continue to research the possible sale. The City has conducted an online survey to obtain public comments which had been running 95% for and 5% against the sale from 125 responses. After Council discussed, Councilman Henck made the motion to advertise and set a public hearing at the November 14 Council meeting, and to run the online survey for two more weeks. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

### Old Time Appalachian Christmas Festival

Patti Price-Love, Tourism Director, requested the date of the Christmas festival to be changed from Dec. 3 to Dec. 10 due to the surrounding area’s activities. She said the festival would be held from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Main Street from Washington to Old Town Street. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the festival date change. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Council Chamber Audio Equipment

Council held a discussion and was updated on obtaining new audio equipment for the Council meeting chamber area which would also include another avenue for the community to stay informed of City Council meetings. The system should be fully operational by the next City Council meeting in November. Audio Unlimited, Inc. of Jonesville, NC was the vendor that was selected. There was a consensus from Council on the purchase and installation of the new audio equipment.

### Zoning Requests

Stephanie Dalton, GIS & Zoning Administrator was present and gave the Planning Commission’s recommendation after holding a public hearing for the following:

- Mr. Nick Avila requested a Conditional Use Permit to allow for apartment use for the property, owned by Mrs. Martha Wilson, at 104 E. Stuart Drive (Parcel 45-30,31). The Planning Commission recommended to approve the request. Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

- Stuart Drive Ventures requested a portion of parcels 12-40, 13-2, and 13-3 located at 1147 E. Stuart Drive be rezoned from R-1(Residential Low-Density) to B-2 (Business General). The Planning Commission recommended to approve the request. Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the rezoning change. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

#### Human Resources Director Introduction

Alan Dickerson, Interim Human Resources Director, introduced the newly hired Human Resources Director, Susan Carico. Her hire date would be effective October 18, 2022. Council welcomed Ms. Carico to her new position with the City.

#### Rooftop of Virginia CAP, appointment

Council was requested to appoint Susan Carico, Human Resources Director, to the Rooftop of Virginia CAP Board (effective 10-18-22) as representative of the City of Galax. Judy Bolt, retired Human Resources Director, previously served on the board. Councilman Henck made the motion to appoint Ms. Carico to the Rooftop Board. Vice Mayor White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

#### Commissioner of Revenue

Council was asked to appoint Ms. Rene Funk as the Commissioner of the Revenue effective November 1, 2022 until the November 2023 general election date per **VA Code 24.2-228.1**. The previous Commissioner of Revenue, David Hankley would be retiring at the end of October. Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Funk as Commissioner of Revenue. Councilman Henck seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

#### Budget Amendment Request

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance, requested the approval of a budget amendment for 2022 & 2023. A report was given to Council regarding the details of the request. Councilman Henck made the motion to approve the 2022 budget amendment. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

Councilman Larrowe made the motion to approve the 2023 budget amendment. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

#### Public Hearing Request

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance, requested approval for a public hearing and advertisement for a budget amendment at the next meeting in November to recognize additional personal property tax revenue. Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the requests for the Director of Finance. Councilman Larrowe seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of

“yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

### Public Services Committee Charter

Councilman Henck who serves as Chair for the Public Services Committee, requested the approval of the charter for this committee. After a discussion, Councilman Henck made the motion to approve the charter. Councilman Haynes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Larrowe, and Councilman Henck.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS** (Limited to 3 minutes per person)

- Sarah Price - Personal Property & Real Estate Taxes
- Jill Burcham – PUSH Ministries Warming Station
- Kelleen Gale – Congressional Aide
- Dr. Cameron Gillespie – Single Family Homes with Multiple Families
- Jolena Young – Application sent in for VA Main Street Grant

### **COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

#### Councilman Haynes

- GPD & DSS employees thankful to Council for approving their raises
- Invited a restaurant to come to Galax
- Discussed Bernie Rector, Code Compliance Official visiting homes to get to know citizens

#### Councilwoman White

- Tourism meeting invitation
- Free Clinic discussion

#### Councilwoman Ritchie

- Public Art Project – Municipal parking lot wall project on hold

#### Councilman Henck

- New business on Main Street – Quilts on Main

#### Mayor Greene

- Discussed the VML Conference

#### Councilman Larrowe

- Discussed citizen’s comments and concerns regarding the City’s tax rates
- District Three – Good resource for the elderly and disabled

Additional Public Comment: David Hankley, Commissioner of Revenue through October 31, discussed the tax rate increase with Councilman Larrowe.

**ADJOURN**

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

ADJOURNMENT at 7:55 p.m.



Handwritten signature of Wilbur T. Greene in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal line.

Mayor



Handwritten signature of Rainey Moore in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal line.

Clerk

