

**Galax City Council and
Galax Planning Commission
Joint Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

Galax City Council and the Galax Planning Commission convened in a special joint meeting to hold a public hearing for a rezoning request in the Galax City Council Chamber on January 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. City Manager Burnette called the meeting to order. Mayor Greene gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATHS OF OFFICE

City Manager Burnette introduced Ms. Renae Nester, Grayson County Clerk of Court, who performed individual oaths to Councilman Warr, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

City Manager Burnette called for nominations for the office of Mayor to serve a two-year term from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. Councilwoman Ritchie nominated Willie Greene for Mayor. Vice Mayor White seconded. With no additional nominations, Mr. Burnette closed the nominations, and asked for a vote from Council for Willie Greene.

- *The vote was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yes”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers. Mayor Greene thanked his colleagues for their support and vote of confidence in appointing him as Mayor.*

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Greene announced this was the date set for a joint public hearing with the Planning Commission. He opened the public hearing and asked Brandon Boyles, Planning Commission Chair, to do the same.

Mr. Boyles called the joint meeting to order with Brandon Boyles, Sharon Ritchie, Dana Sworsy, and Josepha Thompson present.

Gavin Blevins addressed Council regarding the updates to the Comprehensive Plan. In 2023, staff and the Galax Planning Commission were directed to undertake review and amendment of necessary plans and ordinances to move the city forward for a more competitive and resilient approach toward higher economic vitality and quality of life. The Planning Commission reviewed the Creekside Small Area Plan (Creekside SAP) through the lens of a city-wide approach, treating a potential Vaughan redevelopment project as a catalyst, part of a transition toward a more walkable, inclusionary City plan. The potential for the Creekside SAP to change the trajectory of the city was considered carefully at multiple levels of City governance, and, ultimately, the principals underpinning the Creekside SAP were appealing to the Commission and Staff in the general sense of urban planning. The requirements of establishing an urban development area were also explored with the intent to be incorporated into the comprehensive plan, which contains much of the same planning principles as the Creekside SAP. The Planning Commission ultimately determined that the City needed to incorporate new urban planning principles into its policies, proposing the following components of the proposed amendments:

- Land Use
 - Allow for mixed-use/adaptive mixed-use
 - Promote the viability of the downtown

- Promote more inclusionary land use policies
- Increase overall resiliency
- Transportation
 - Establishment of an Urban Development Area(s)
 - Creekside (SAP), downtown, historic district – all overlapping
 - Incorporating traditional neighborhood design
 - Avoid patterns of induced demand
 - More focus on long-term feasibility of transportation network
 - Increased focus on bicycle and pedestrian

Furthermore, the Galax Planning Commission and staff began in-depth review of the 2022 Galax Comprehensive Plan and Creekside SAP in September 2023, focusing on incorporation of current city initiatives into public service, joining the Virginia Main Street program, City Council’s 2020 strategic plan, the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts programming, and much more. The Planning Commission ultimately determined that the City needed to incorporate new urban planning principles into its policies, proposing the amendment.

Mr. Blevins explained that the Staff recommendation was for the Planning Commission to recommend that City Council approve the updated Comprehensive Plan for the reasons reported. He said that a resolution was incorporated to the Urban Development Area in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Blevins relinquished the floor for discussion by the planning commission.

Brandon Boyles mentioned an issue that he had with the executive summary. He explained they wanted to be cautious and careful not to single out a specific project to endorse. He said the executive summary does mention Vaughan Redevelopment Project as a catalyst.

Mr. Blevins responded with the reason it was reflected that way.

Ms. Sworsy agreed with Mr. Boyles.

Mr. Blevins said that the recommendation would be reflected in the motion.

Mr. Boyles opened the floor for public comments. With no comments made, Mr. Boyles closed the public comments.

Mayor Greene closed the public hearing.

Mr. Blevins informed Council that the recommendation from City Staff and the Planning Commission was that Council adopt the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the exclusion of the second sentence that Mr. Boyles spoke about reflecting the Vaughan Redevelopment Project in the executive summary. He said that the motion should include the adoption of the UDA resolution to amend the 2022 Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Boyles asked for further discussion from the Planning Commission. With none, he entertained a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the minor amendment to the executive summary.

- *Dana Sworsy made the motion. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded. The vote was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Brandon Boyles, Councilwoman Ritchie, Dana Sworsy, and Josepha Thompson.*

Mr. Boyles gave the Planning Commission’s recommendation to Council, which was reflected in the vote.

- *Dana Sworsy made the motion to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting. Josepha Thompson seconded the motion, with unanimous “ayes”.*

Mr. Boyles adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Mayor Greene closed the public hearing. Gavin Blevins informed Council the recommendation from City Staff and the Planning Commission was that Council adopt the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the exclusion of the second sentence that Mr. Boyles spoke about reflecting the Vaughan Redevelopment Project in the executive summary. He said that the motion would include the adoption of the resolution to amend the 2022 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Boyles asked for further discussion from the Planning Commission. With none, he entertained a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the minor amendment to the executive summary.

- *Dana Sworsy made the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the minor amendment to the executive summary. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded. The vote was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Brandon Boyles, Councilwoman Ritchie, Dana Sworsy, and Josepha Thompson.*

Mr. Boyles gave the Planning Commission's recommendation to Council to approve the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan with the minor amendment to the executive summary.

- *Dana Sworsy made the motion to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting. Josepha Thompson seconded the motion, with unanimous "ayes". Mr. Boyles adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.*

Mayor Greene called for a five-minute break at 5:50 p.m. then reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Greene called for a motion on the recommendation from the Planning Commission.

- *Councilman Henck made the motion to adopt the amendments and resolution for the Comprehensive Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission. 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 Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers*

Councilman Henck thanked Gavin Blevins and the Planning Commission for all their hard work on the large task of amending the Comprehensive Plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of December 11, 2023

- *Councilman Warr made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 11, 2023. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Public Hearing to Consider Placement of Blue Line Solutions Cameras in School Zones

Mayor Greene announced this was the date and time set for a public hearing to consider placement of Blue Line Solutions Camera in the school zones. Chief Cooper gave an overview of Blue Line Solutions. The company owned by law enforcement, operates photo speed programs with a vision and mission based solely on the reduction in speed, crashes and injuries in school and work zones. Blue Line Solutions has noted

partnerships in seven states and with twelve localities in the Commonwealth of Virginia with over a 90% reduction rate. Chief Cooper explained this option was being looked at due to the many citizen complaints regarding speeding in the school zones. Chief Cooper said it was impossible with their department size to always have an officer at intersections before and after school when traffic is heavy. Emergencies happen and they have to be called away. Mayor Greene opened the floor for public comments.

Mike Larrowe discussed his thoughts on Blue Line Solutions Cameras:

- No debate of the safety of school children
- No auto vs. pedestrian issues in the school zones
- School zones and the posted speed not properly posted
- Cost of the program for the citizens – 1.6M cost to motorists, \$230 annually to citizens

With no further public comments made, Mayor Greene declared the public hearing closed. City Manager Burnette noted that Council wanted to hear public comments regarding this issue and take into advisement. He asked if they wanted to move forward, deny, or table until a future meeting. A discussion ensued and Councilman Warr felt the request needed more evaluation. Councilman Henck said this matter had been discussed previously in the Public Services Committee meeting, but no recommendations were made. They were waiting on the cost estimates.

- *Vice Mayor White made the motion to defer the request back to the Public Services Committee once the financial aspects were finalized. Councilman Warr seconded.*

Councilman Henck said that the community was welcome to email him or the City Manager with questions to discuss at the Public Services Committee.

- *The motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

Public Hearing to Consider Amendments to the Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance

Mayor Greene announced this was the date and time set for a public hearing to consider amendments to the Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance. Adrienne Norman, CMOM/Environmental Programs/Project Manager gave an overview of the proposed amendments to the Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance. The amendment would no longer charge a stormwater fee to parcels that have zero square feet of impervious surface. Staff would review the current stormwater utility fees, how they were calculated, and how citizens were currently charged. Ms. Norman explained the stormwater utility fee was an imposed tax on all parcels within City limits, in which fee rates were based upon an equivalent residential unit (ERU). She said an ERU was approximated to 4,700 square feet of impervious area, which included all buildings, structures and other impervious surfaces which contribute to stormwater runoff. Ms. Norman said the City charges this fee to help defer some of the cost of building and maintaining the City’s stormwater management infrastructure. Ms. Norman stated the fee in question that would be waived was \$75. The ordinance would only pertain to residential properties. It was noted that even parcels that remained entirely natural and produced no non-natural stormwater were charged the fee due to the definition and rate calculation chart. Mayor Greene opened the floor for public comments. A brief Council discussion ensued. With no further comments made, Mayor Greene declared the public hearing closed.

- *Vice Mayor White made the motion to approve the Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance amendment. Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of*

“yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.

Rene Funk, Commissioner of Revenue, thanked Council for approving the amendment since they receive lots of complaints in their office.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Election of a Vice Mayor

Mayor Greene announced this was the time set to elect the Vice Mayor. The Mayor and Vice Mayor are elected every two years. Council votes to appoint a Vice-Mayor from one of its own. Vice-Mayor White had successfully executed her vice-mayoral term ending December 31, 2023, and it was now time to select a Vice-Mayor for the term from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. Mayor Greene invited nominees for the office of Vice-Mayor.

- *Councilman Warr nominated Beth White for Vice Mayor. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”*: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.

Discussion of Council Meeting Schedule for 2024

City Manager Burnette informed Council that during the recent strategic work session, Council advised that the current meeting schedule was satisfactory and should be continued. The proposed Council meeting dates for 2024 would continue the practice of once per month meetings at 6:00PM on the second Monday of each month. The schedule also included moving the regular meeting from Monday to Tuesday in October and November to miss Columbus Day and Veteran’s Day.

- *Councilman Henck made the motion to adopt the 2024 Council Meeting Schedule as presented. Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”*: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.

Discussion of Holiday Schedule for 2024

City Manager Burnette informed Council that the City had typically followed its own schedule for closure during certain state and/or nationally recognized holidays. He said due to the competitive nature of the hiring market, Staff had recommended that the City adopt a holiday schedule that mirrors the state holidays as they were currently approved or could be changed during the year. He added that most, if not all, localities in the area followed at least the state schedule with some actually approving more holidays than the Commonwealth. The proposed request would adopt the state holiday schedule as it was currently approved. City staff would receive an additional twenty (20) hours of paid holiday time off per year, which would include a full day on Columbus Day, a full day on Election Day, and a half-day off on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

- *Councilman Henck made the motion for the City to adopt the holiday schedule that mirrored the approved state holidays. Vice Mayor White seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”*: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie,

Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.

Discussion of Council-Appointed Seats on Various Committees

City Manager Burnette addressed Council regarding Council-appointed seats on various boards, commissions, and committees that citizens, Staff, and members of Council were appointed to each year. City council was asked to consider appointments to 40 various boards, commissions, and committees with available slots on the handout provided. Council members were asked for preferences as to which boards and committees they wished to serve on in 2024, and assigned Staff to roles as well.

**The updated listing of 2024 Boards and Commissions with Council votes is attached to at the end of the minutes.*

Proposed Adoption of Roberts Rules of Order

City Manager Burnette informed Council that historically, they had adopted and operated by Roberts Rules of Order. Mr. Burnette proposed that Council re-adopt Robert's Rules for calendar year 2024.

- *Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion to re-adopt Robert's Rules for calendar year 2024. City council will be asked to adopt Robert's Rules of Order as its code of functioning for calendar year 2024. Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of the 2024-2025 City Budget

City Manager Burnette discussed the upcoming 2024-2025 budget season calendar and discussed the budget process. A budget work session was scheduled for Tuesday, January 23rd to allow Staff to hear priorities directly from all members of Council regarding what was desired to be in the initial budget. Councilman Henck made a request to invite members of the Galax School Board to attend a joint budget work session as in the past. Mr. Burnette agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Approve a VSMP Authority Agreement for the Stuart Drive Development Project

Mrs. Adrienne Norman informed Council of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Authority responsibilities, along with the benefits of the City acting as the Authority for the Stuart Drive Ventures Development Project. She said this project was on property that was bi-sected by the Galax City / Carroll County Line. The project was envisioned to be a large multi-faceted development with retail, commercial, and residential uses over time. Mrs. Norman explained because the City acts as the VSMP Authority over other multi-jurisdictional projects, including the Wildwood Commerce Park, Council was being asked to allow City Staff to perform this function for the entire Stuart Drive Development project.

- *Vice Mayor White made the motion to approve the agreement which will allow the City to act as the VSMP Authority over the Stuart Drive Ventures Development Project for the entirety of all immediate and future development at this site. Councilman Bowers seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White,*

Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers

False Fire Alarm Policy Request

Chief Ayers made a request on behalf of the Galax Volunteer Fire Department, the Board of Directors, Officers, and Members that a False Alarm Ordinance be developed for the City of Galax. Chief Ayers explained since 2019, the calls for service for the department had risen 42% to an average of 500 calls per year. He said over the past three years' worth of data, it had been found that 20% of those calls had been false alarms. He said while a certain number of false alarms were to be expected and accepted, the majority of false alarms were due to repeat offenders. Chief Ayers discussed how the situation was causing safety and morale issues, as well as taking up precious and finite resources. The department requested that some sort of ordinance with a financial penalty be enacted to help persuade some of these firms with multiple false alarms to check and fix their alarm systems rather than leaving it to our volunteers to continue running false alarms.

- *Vice Mayor White made the motion to direct the City Manager to begin creating a False Alarm Policy/Ordinance to assist the Fire Department in deterring some false alarm calls. Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

Request to Apply for Virginia Tourism Grant Funds

City Manager Burnette made Council aware of a request made by Ms. Price-Love, Director of Tourism, to have authorization to apply for two grants from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. He explained the grant applications were not yet available but the grant cycle would start on February 8th. He said we could apply for the DMO grant of \$20,000 (last year required a match of \$10,000) and the Marketing Leverage Plan grant of \$20K (last year required a 1:1 match of \$20,000). Match for these grants would come out of existing tourism dollars, and would be for marketing purposes with at least twenty-five percent (25%) had to be spent out of state.

- *Councilman Warr made the motion to authorize Staff to submit two grant applications to the VTC for marketing of the City. Councilman Henck seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

Request to Form Board of Equalization

City Manager Burnette informed Council the once-per-four-year property reassessment was nearing completion. He said residents and businesses would soon be receiving the updated valuations of their homes and buildings, and the valuation was at the heart of the local tax equation. He said many residents and businesses may disagree with the new value given to their property, some that it was too low and some saying theirs were too high. Mr. Burnette further explained by Code, the City must empanel a Board of Equalization to hear any arguments and render judgement on the proper valuation of each contested parcel. Because of the time-sensitive nature of these proceedings, Council was asked to quickly revive and empower the Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization would be comprised of three members with 4-year terms. Council would make the recommendations to the Grayson Circuit Court who would approve each member.

- *Councilman Warr made the motion to authorize Staff to present three residents to the Circuit Court for the Board of Equalization. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

Request to Apply for two Assistance to Firefighters Grants

City Manager Burnette informed Council of a request for approval to develop and submit two grant applications to the Assistance to Firefighters grant program with a deadline in mid-February 2024. The first grant would be for a tanker truck for the Galax Fire Department. Galax Fire Department had verbally committed to provide the required 10% matching funds. The grant amount was unknown pending receipt of a budgetary quote for the Tanker. Mr. Burnette said the second application would be to work with the Galax Grayson EMS Chief Busick to submit a grant for an Ambulance. Galax Grayson EMS had previously verbally committed to provide the required 10%-20% matching funds. The grant amount was also unknown pending receipt of a budgetary quote for the Ambulance. Galax has been funded after 2-3 annual submissions of the same grant request, due to being a highly competitive program.

- *Vice Mayor White made the motion to authorize Staff to submit two grant applications to the Assistance to Firefighters grants for needed emergency apparatus. Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

Request to Apply for Fire Prevention Safety Grant

City Manager Burnette informed Council that Staff was requesting approval to develop and submit a grant application to the Fire Prevention Safety grant program for a Smoke Trailer to be used regionally for fire safety education. He said the Galax Fire Department had verbally committed to providing the 10% matching funds. He said an application was submitted in the FY2022 Cycle for \$89,670.00 but was not successful. The budgetary quote would be updated for the FY2023 submission. He added as with AFG, this was a highly competitive funding program, and the smoke trailer was a medium priority funding item. Councilman Henck said the City now had a fantastic facility in Galax to implement fire safety programs. The Smoke Trailer was needed before the facility was available. If awarded, he questioned the use of the Smoke Trailer since this would stretch the manpower of the GFD due to traveling out of our area. Chief Ayers said the trailer would be able to reach students such as Mount Rogers Combined Schools. The Fire Safety House could mainly be used for school groups, scouts, etc.

- *Councilman Henck made the motion to authorize Staff to re-submit a grant application to the Fire Prevention Safety Grant for purchase of an educational smoke trailer. Councilman Bowers seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

Request to Apply for VCA Creative Community Partnership Grant

City Manager Burnette informed Council that Staff had requested approval to develop and submit a grant application to the Virginia Council of the Arts (VCA) for a \$4,500 Creative Community Partnership

Grant. He said the 1:1 match had historically been provided through the Council's commitment of \$2,500 funding to the Arts Council of the Twin Counties and \$2,000 in the commitment to Chestnut Creek School of the Arts. He said the application was due before April 1, 2024, and the City of Galax had received this funding for several grant cycles.

- *Councilman Warr made the motion to authorize Staff to submit a grant application to the VCA for support of two local arts organizations. Councilman Bowers seconded, and the motion was approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers. Vice Mayor White stepped out briefly during the vote.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Sarah Price – Discussion: Making Improvements to Galax
- Shane Coomes – Discussion: Zoning Ordinance regarding single house dwellings with multiple residents

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager – Michael Burnette

- Felts Park guardrail replacement completed
- Informed Council of a proposed amendment request from the CHA Engineering Firm related to the 3M grant for the Galax Water Treatment Plan that was previously approved by Council. The 100K amendment proposed out of task #7 treatment plant upgrade loan grant, and created #8 for a PER amendment that would make the water plant more resilient and stable over time. A Council discussion ensued.
 - *Councilman Henck made the motion to approve the agreement (with the condition referencing Roberts Rules) to hold the execution of the document by the City Manager for two days in case Council had an issue regarding the agreement. Vice Mayor White seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*
- Gave an update from Mr. Joey Davis, who was named as Property Maintenance Official in mid-November to undertake code compliance issues & complaints which included:
 - 61 cases of which 33 were successfully completed
 - 9 notices of violations
 - 19 open cases due to time allowed for home/property owners to comply
- City Manager Burnette noted that Mr. Davis would present a Property Maintenance update at the February 12 meeting.

Councilman Warr

- Welcomed Councilwoman Burnett and Councilman Bowers to Council
- Congratulated Mayor Greene and Vice Mayor White being re-appointed
- Discussed:

- Tourism meeting
- Virginia Main Street Project
- Thursday nights downtown – “Lively Night”

Councilman Henck

- Dental Clinic
- Public Services Committee
- Radio Interoperability Project

Councilwoman Ritchie

- Old Time Appalachian Christmas Festival Downtown
- Public Art/Fiddles

Vice Mayor White

- Specialty Market – Galax Farmer’s Market
- Project Light – update soon
- Foster care Christmas party

Councilwoman Burnett

- Thanked everyone for being so welcoming

Councilman Bowers

- Thankful & excited to work with Council

Mayor Greene

- State Executive Committee on Child Services
- Public Services Committee
- Galax Fire Department packed Christmas boxes

Closed Session

- *Mayor Greene accepted a motion made by Vice Mayor White at 9:15 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia in Accordance with 2.2-3711*
- (A)(5) Prospective or expansion of business or industry where no previous public announcement has been made
- (A)(1) Personnel Discussion of appointments to City Boards, Commissions, etc.
 1. City of Galax Planning Commission
- (A)(3) Discussion of the acquisition of real property or the disposition of real property
 1. Tower Property
 2. Kipling Lane
 3. Hampton Property
 4. Social Services

- *Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*
- *At 10:05 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 affirmation: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Richie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.*

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION – None

Mayor Greene adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

Boards and Commissions

Planning Commission		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Sharon Ritchie	City Council	6/30/2026
*VACANT	At-Large	6/30/2027
Janet Nuckolls	At-Large	6/30/2027
Brandon Boyles - Chair	At-Large	6/30/2025
Rita Reeves	At-Large	6/30/2025
Dana Sworsy	At-Large	6/30/2025
Josepha Thompson	At-Large	6/30/2027

***Advertised Vacancy, Motion: Henck – Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved**

Downtown Tree Advisory Committee		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Marlin A. Reeves, Sr.	At-Large	None Found
Nancy Luague	At-Large	None Found
Harold Sutherland	At-Large	None Found
Dave Bremmer	At-Large	None Found

Traffic Safety Committee		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Chief Dewitt Cooper, Chair	GPD	None Found
Chief Mike Ayers	GFD	None Found
Chief Jason Busick	GGEMS	None Found
Jeff Sharpe	Public Schools	None Found
Mike Woodel	Galax Staff	None Found
*Kathy Burnett	City Council	None Found

*** Motion: Henck – Second: White, Unanimously Approved**

Accident Review Committee		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Susan Carico	HR	None Found
Mike Woodel	Public Works	None Found
Brian Combs	Public Works	None Found
DeWitt Cooper	GPD	None Found
Jason Busick	EMS	None Found

Board of Equalization		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
	At-Large	
	At-Large	
	At-Large	

Authority to identify citizens to be on the BOE and forward those to the Circuit Court for recommendations.

Motion: Warr, Second: Ritchie, Unanimously Approved

Board of Zoning Appeals		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Doug Williams	At-Large	06/30/28
Roger Neal - Chair	At-Large	06/30/28
Jason Bowers	At-Large	06/30/24
John K. Adams, Jr.	At-Large	06/30/25
Fayma Nye	At-Large	06/30/24
<i>City Attorney makes recommendation to Grayson Circuit Court for appointment (5-yr term)</i>		

Consensus to Confirm Re-appointment or Advertise

Recreation Advisory Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Donald Houk	GFD	Indefinite
Oscar Hall	Moose Lodge	Indefinite
Jennifer Morris	At-Large	6/30/2024 (1st Term)
Brandon Boyles	At-Large	6/30/2024 (1st Term)
Mike Woodel	City Public Works	Indefinite
Sharon Ritchie	City Council	Indefinite
Billy Whitaker	At-Large	6/30/2024 (2nd Term)
Allison Adams	At-Large	6/30/2025 (1st Term)
Brian Stuart	At-Large	6/30/2025 (1st Term)
Tony Quesenberry	Director	Indefinite
**2-yr Term - Limit of 2 Non-Consecutive Terms – At Least One Year off – City Residents Only		

Confirm Re-appointment or Advertise - Motion: White Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

Library Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Sylvia Richardson	At-Large	6/30/2025
Lee Chaffee	At-Large	6/30/2026
Lynne Barker	At-Large	6/30/2027

Industrial Development Authority		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Roger Neal	At-Large	6/30/2025
Nathan Smith	At-Large	6/30/2025
Doug Vaught	At-Large	6/30/2025
Susie Garner	At-Large	6/30/2025
Jim Adams	At-Large	6/30/2025
Sam Bartlett	At-Large	6/30/2025
Amanda Archer	At-Large	6/30/2024
Michael Burnette	City Rep.	Indefinite

Confirm Re-appointment or Advertise - Motion: White, Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved
 Appointed Michael Burnette to all boards filled by Gavin Blevins, Motion: Henck, Second: White, Unanimously Approved

Social Services Advisory Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Gavin Blevins	City Rep.	Indefinite
Kisha Johnson	At-Large	8/31/2024 (1st Term)
Edit A. Marr Castillo	At-Large	8/31/2024 (2nd Term)
William "Bill" Parks	At-Large	8/31/2026 (1st Term)
Jordan Anderson	At-Large	8/31/2026 (1st Term)
Evan Henck	Council Rep.	8/31/2026 (1st Term)
**4-Yr Terms with 2-term limit		

Social Services Local Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
	At-Large	
	Council Rep.	
	At-Large	
	At-Large	
	At-Large	
**Assuming move to Local Board rather than Advisory Board		

Social Services CPMT		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Tammy Smith	DSS Director	None Found
Michael Burnette	City Rep.	None Found
Mayor Greene	Council Rep.	None Found
Rob Hiatt	Court Service Unit	None Found
Paige Foutch	Health Department	None Found
Vicky Richardson	Health Department	None Found
KJ Holbrook	MRC SB	None Found
Elisabeth Carico	YAP - Private Provider Rep.	None Found
Rena Barbour	Private Provider Rep.	None Found
Jessica Coleman	Parent Rep.	None Found
Susan Tilley	Galax Schools	None Found

Appointed Michael Burnette to all boards filled by Gavin Blevins, Motion: Henck, Second: Ritchie, Unanimously Approved

Social Services FAPT		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Amy Hill	DSS	None Found
Andrew Peddy	MRC SB	None Found
Emily Higgins	Private Agency	None Found
Danielle Cooper	Parent Rep.	None Found
Stuart Cheeks	Court Service Unit	None Found
Jessica Draper	Galax Schools	None Found

Mount Rogers Regional Partnership		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Roger Neal	Galax	None Found
Doug Vaught	Galax (Alternate)	None Found

Galax City School Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Brett Sexton	At-Large	6/30/2024
Leah Joy Henck	At-Large	6/30/2024
Larry Spangler	At-Large	6/30/2026
Jessica Whitaker	At-Large	6/30/2025
Rev. Dr. Kevin G. Rosenfeld	At-Large	6/30/2025
**3-year terms and no limit to number of terms		

Council Consensus to Advertise

Airport Commission		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Tom Jones	Galax	None Found
Mayor Greene	Council Rep	None Found

Confirmed Mayor Greene's Appointment, Motion: White – Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

Wytheville Community College Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Jack Roberts	Galax	6/30/2025
**4-Yr term with limit of two terms		

New River-Mount Rogers Workforce Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Hunter Bowers	Galax	None Found
Sharon Ritchie	Galax (alternate)	None Found

Bowers & Ritchie Appointed, Motion: White – Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

BRCEDA		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Sharon Ritchie	Council Rep.	None Found
Evan Henck	Council Rep. (alternate)	None Found
Michael Burnette	City Rep.	None Found

Henck, Ritchie & Burnette Appointed, Motion: Warr– Second: White, Unanimously Approved

District 3 Aging Services		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Hunter Bowers	Council Rep.	6/30/2024
Sharon Ritchie	Council Rep. (alternate)	6/30/2024
**1-yr terms expiring on June 30th of each year		

Bowers & Ritchie Appointed, Motion: White - Second: Henck, Unanimously Approved

Rooftop of Virginia CAP Board of Directors		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Susan Carico	City Rep.	10/25/27
Beth White	Council Rep.	1/30/29
**5-Yr term with no limit		

Carico & White Appointed, Motion: Henck - Second: Ritchie, Unanimously Approved

Mount Rogers Community Services Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Susie Garner	Galax	12/31/2026
**3-yr term and limit of three terms		

Crossroads Institute Board of Directors		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
C.M. Mitchell	BRCEDA Rep.	None Found
Mayor Greene	Council Rep.	None Found

Greene Appointed, Motion: Ritchie - Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

Carroll-Grayson-Galax Solid Waste Authority		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Mayor Greene	Council Rep.	None Found
C.M. Mitchell	Citizen Rep. Galax	None Found
Michael Burnette	City Rep.	None Found

Greene & Burnette Appointed, Motion: Ritchie - Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

Wired Road Board of Directors		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Martin Slate	Galax	None Found

Mount Rogers Planning District Commission		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Mayor Greene	Council Rep.	6/30/2024
Dana Sworsy	Planning Commission Rep.	12/31/2025
Joseph Thompson	Minority Rep.	12/31/2025
Michael Burnette	At-Large	12/31/2024

Greene & Burnette Appointed, Motion: White - Second: Henck, Unanimously Approved

Mount Rogers PDC Rural Technical Committee		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Mike Woodel	Galax	None Found
Trevor Hutchens	Galax (Alternate)	None Found

Galax Public Art Committee		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Sharon Ritchie	Council Rep.	None Found
Jolena Young	City Rep.	None Found
Katie Lipe	At-Large	None Found

Ritchie Appointed, Motion: White - Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

Twin County E-911 Commission		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Martin Warr	Council Rep.	12/31/2024
Michael Burnette	City Rep.	None Found

Warr Appointed, Motion: Henck - Second: Ritchie, Unanimously Approved

Exec Council for the Office of State Children's Services Board		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Mayor Greene	Galax	None Found

Greene Appointed, by Council Consensus

Rosenwald Revamped Committee		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Evan Henck	Council Rep.	None Found
Beth White	Council Rep.	None Found

Warr Appointed, Motion: Henck - Second: Ritchie, Unanimously Approved

CCSA Board of Directors		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Martin Warr	Council Rep.	None Found
Jolena Young	City Rep.	None Found

Warr Appointed, Motion: Henck - Second: White, Unanimously Approved

Project Light Board of Directors (God's Storehouse)		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Beth White	Council Rep.	None Found

White Appointed, Motion: Warr - Second: Henck, Unanimously Approved

Galax-Grayson Emergency Services		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Kathy Burnett	Council Rep.	12/31/2024

Burnette Appointed, Motion: Ritchie - Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

Eastview Project Oversight Committee		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
Sharon Ritchie	Council Rep.	None Found

Ritchie Appointed, Motion: Warr - Second: White, Unanimously Approved

Vaughan Development Group		
Person	Representing	Term Expiration, if applicable
VACANT – Bowers (Pending – Tabled)	Council Rep.	None Found
VACANT	Council Rep.	None Found

Henck questioned the need for Council members to remain on this non-profit board. After Council discussion, tabled until more information is received. Motion: Ritchie - Second: Warr, Unanimously Approved

City Council Committees

Audit and Finance	
	Council Members
	Hunter Bowers - Chair
	Michael Burnette
	Judy Taylor-Gallimore

All Council Members were appointed, with Bowers the Chair. Motion: Warr - Second: White, Unanimously Approved

Commerce	
	Evan Henck
	VACANT
	Sharon Ritchie

Tabled appointment until Virginia Main Street Board is Created to replace Commerce Committee
 Motion: White - Second: Bowers, Unanimously Approved

Public Services	
	Willie Greene
	Kathy Burnett
	Evan Henck

Burnett Appointed, Motion: Warr - Second: White, Unanimously Approved

Tourism, Downtown & Communication	
	VACANT (formerly Travis Haynes)
	Sharon Ritchie
	Martin Warr
	Beth White

Tourism, Downtown & Communication