

**Galax City Council**  
**Special Called Meeting Minutes**  
**March 28, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

Galax City Council convened in a special called meeting in the City Council Chamber on March 28, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

At 4:00 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 Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.

Councilman Bowers gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**FY2025 Budget Presentation**

City Manager Burnette gave a presentation of the proposed FY25 Budget to City Council. Highlights of the proposed budget included:

- No use of Fund Balance
- No increase in water/sewer/trash rates
- No increase in tax rates – rates to be lowered .08 per Council’s request (.92 per \$100)
- Limited use of the Gen. Fund to cover water/sewer operational costs (\$86K moved to make budget balance)
- Real Estate tax bills to increase for most due to increase in valuations. Per Council, reducing tax revenue by one-third to assist citizens
- Over all, a conservative budget which attempts to address the city employee needs, Council’s wishes, and community growth
- Our revenues - trending upward

City Manager Burnette continued to discuss all items in detail with Council which included discussion of the water plant renovation.

**Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) Application(s)**

City Manager Burnette explained Congressional Directed Spending earmarks had just announced the window was now open for applications. The proposed applications would include 3M for the water plant, and 1M for the Rex Theater renovations.

*Vice Mayor White made the motion to direct the City Manager and Staff to make applications for the proposed projects as presented. Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion 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.*

**Appointment of Building Official and Property Maintenance Official**

City Manager Burnette informed Council the Department of Housing and Community Development made a request to have Tom Hager named by Council as the Building Official as of 1-1-23, and Joey Davis, named as Property Maintenance Official as of 12-01- 23.

***Councilman Warr made the motion to approve the DHCD request as presented by City Manager Burnette. Councilman Henck seconded, and the motion 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 made a funding request for Recovery Court Program for \$10K. Last year the same amount was approved by the City. Grayson County and Carroll County had already approved the same amount for the program this year. The 10K would come from the opioid settlement abatement funds the City receives.

***Councilman Henck made the motion to approve the funding request as presented. Councilwoman Burnett seconded, and the motion 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.***

***Mayor Greene accepted a motion made by Councilman Henck at 5:25 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Codes 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.***

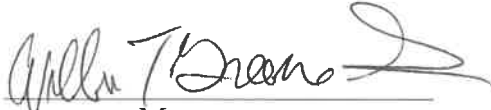
***Vice Mayor White seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of “yea”: Mayor Greene, Vice Mayor White, Councilwoman Ritchie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.***

***Councilwoman Ritchie made the motion to come out of closed session. Councilwoman Burnett seconded, and the motion 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.***

***At 7:32 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 Ritchie, Councilman Warr, Councilman Henck, Councilwoman Burnett, and Councilman Bowers.***

***At 7:35 p.m., Councilwoman Burnett made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Warr seconded, and the motion 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.***

ADJOURNMENT at 7:35 p.m.

  
Mayor

  
Clerk