

**January  
2025**

## Introduction

This Newsletter is to give you an overview of the activities and discussions of council, along with the status of various projects and initiatives that are underway with the city. The intent is to be as transparent as possible.

## Vision

“Galax is a vibrant, diverse, friendly, citizen engaged community that pursues a culture of excellence.”

## Mission Statement

“The city provides high quality public services to sustain an excellent community in which to live, work and play.”



# A Minute with the Mayor

# 2025



Greetings,

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2025, I'm filled with hope and excitement for what lies ahead for our city. January is the perfect time to reflect on our accomplishments, set new goals, and recommit ourselves to building a community we're all proud to call home.

Looking back on 2024, we achieved so much together—whether through local improvements, community events, or programs that have positively impacted our city. I want to thank each of you for your contributions, big and small, to making Galax such a special place.

In 2025, we have exciting plans to continue our progress. From new infrastructure projects and enhanced public services to initiatives aimed at fostering economic growth and supporting our youth, there's much to look forward to. I encourage you to stay engaged by attending community meetings, participating in local events, and sharing your thoughts and ideas with my office.

This month, I also want to acknowledge the resilience and generosity of our community. Winter can be a challenging time for many, and I encourage those who can to support our local food banks, shelters, and organizations that serve those in need. Together, we can ensure that everyone in Galax feels supported and cared for.

As your mayor, I'm committed to working tirelessly on your behalf. Let's make 2025 a year of growth, unity, and shared success. Here's to a bright future for Galax—and for all of us who call it home.

Warm regards,

*Willie*

**Willie T. Greene, Sr**  
Mayor, City of Galax

# January City Council Meeting 1/13/2025

Here is a quick summary of our last Council meeting.

**POLICE OFFICER OATHS OF OFFICE - Vice Mayor, Beth White administered the oaths of office to officers Caleb A. Brannock and Kelby S. Edwards.**



**PUBLIC HEARING: Potential Amendment to Ordinance 86-9(B)(9)(a) of Chapter 86 of the Galax City Code Regarding Operation of Itinerant Merchants**

– *Commissioner of Revenue Funk*  
– Council heard public comment related to a potential change in City Code to limit the frequency per year that an itinerant merchant can set up within City limits. The proposed ordinance amendment would limit the operation of itinerant merchants and those hosting itinerant merchants to three (3) occasions per year when such merchants operate out of doors, from a vehicle, or from a temporary structure like a tent or pavilion. The ordinance would exempt operations at City-approved festivals, fairs and similar functions from this limitation. The ordinance would allow itinerant merchants to obtain up to three (3) short-term licenses permitting operation up to three (3) consecutive days per occasion. **This proposal would not include or impact food trucks.**

**City Council adopted the change.**

**PUBLIC HEARING: Potential Amendment to the FY25 Galax City Budget** – *Finance Director Taylor-Gallimore* – The purpose of the public hearing was an amendment to adjust General Fund, Sewer Fund, and Water Fund revenue and expenditures for updated projections.

**After hearing public comment, Council adopted and appropriated the amended FY25 City budget.**

**ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS:** As the first meeting of the new year, Council discussed numerous organizational items to set schedules and assignments for calendar year 2025. This included:

- Discussion of Council Meeting Schedule for 2025
- Discussion of Holiday and Trash Pickup Schedule for 2025
- Discussion of Council-Appointed Seats on Various Committees
- Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order to Guide Council

**OLD BUSINESS**

FY2024 Financial Audit Results - *Robinson Farmer Cox & Associates* – Auditors reviewed the FY24 fiscal year audit for Council and discussed their findings. The City was given a clean audit with no significant issues.

**City Council heard the presentation and accepted the audit as presented.**

**Utility System Financial Planning**

– *Kyle Laux, Davenport & Company* – The City's financial planners, Davenport, have been hired to work with Staff and CHA, the City's engineers working on the overall water treatment plant and distribution system upgrades. Davenport has looked at various financial models, loan/grant/rate inputs to create a fiscally prudent plan for making the substantial investments necessary to improve the City's water system. Mr. Laux presented Davenport's findings and walked Council through various scenarios and potential courses of action.

**City Council heard the presentation and ask questions.**

# January City Council Meeting 1/13/2025 (Continued)

## Chestnut School for the Arts

### Update - Chris Pollins, Exec.

*Director of the CCSA* – From time to time, City departments and partners are asked to provide updates on their services and results to City Council. The Chestnut Creek School for the Arts is a vital part of the culture that makes the City inviting to residents and visitors alike. Ms. Pollins provided Council with a review of CCSA’s 2024 calendar year and discussed upcoming efforts to grow the organization.

## NEW BUSINESS

### • Main Street Designation

#### Update – Main Street Director

*Hailey Ryan* – Downtown Galax Grows has been working for months to enhance the City’s membership in the Virginia Main Street program. Ms. Ryan discussed the newly received Advancing Main Street designation announced by Governor Youngkin just before Christmas. She introduced Council to some of the many benefits the City and its businesses can receive due to this designation and answered questions.

### • Rex Lane Design Contract –

*City Manager Burnette* – The Council recently heard and adopted the strategic master plan for Downtown Galax crafted by Destination by Design, City Staff, and Downtown Galax Grows. Council has indicated that the first project to be undertaken from this plan is to activate the Rex Lane area across from the Rex Theater by making it into a pedestrian gathering space that can accommodate food trucks

and various small events. Staff advertised for proposals and received just one response which was from Destination by Design. Staff feels that Destination by Design is extremely capable to complete this work and the proposed contract amount of \$81,500 to do full construction design of the project is fair and within budget. Once Council decides to actually construct the project, Destination by Design will be on board to help administer construction for a fee equal to 6% of final construction cost.

It is currently anticipated that the project can be ready to go to bid for construction as early as July 2025.

**City Council authorized the City Manager and City Attorney to prepare and execute an agreement with Destination by Design for the Rex Lane project as outlined.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS FEBRUARY 2025



FREE MOVIE	<b>05</b>	13 GOING ON 30 DOORS OPEN 6:00PM   SHOWTIME 6:30PM
CONCERT	<b>06</b>	JD SIMO X LUTHER DICKINSON DOORS OPEN 6:00PM   SHOWTIME 7:00PM
CONCERT	<b>07</b>	LONESOME RIVER BAND - BACKROADS ENTERTAINMENT DOORS OPEN 6:00PM   SHOWTIME 7:00PM
FREE MOVIE	<b>12</b>	SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE DOORS OPEN 6:00PM   SHOWTIME 6:30PM
FREE MOVIE	<b>19</b>	SIXTEEN CANDLES DOORS OPEN 6:00PM   SHOWTIME 6:30PM
CONCERT	<b>22</b>	MISSY RAINES & ALLEGHENY DOORS OPEN 6:00PM   SHOWTIME 7:00PM
FREE MOVIE	<b>26</b>	LAND BEFORE TIME DOORS OPEN 6:00PM   SHOWTIME 6:30PM

113 E GRAYSON STREET, GALAX VIRGINIA

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE: REX.THEATER  
FACEBOOK: @REXTHEATERGALAX