

Galax City Council

Minutes

January 9, 2017

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 9, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following Council persons present and they are as listed: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Davis. Councilman Helmick was absent.

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

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 12, 2016. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date set for the Public Hearing for the Bottom Area Project, Phase III, Planning Grant. He said the DHCD required a public hearing as part of a planning grant for a DHCD Community Development Block Grant submittal. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. Keith Barker informed Council we had been approved by DHCD for the full planning grant for the Bottom Area Project Phase III. He said while the grant application would be limited to the area from the Shaw Street to approximately Eastview Street, all engineering studies would be from Shaw Street to Poplar Knob Road. Mr. Barker said we were in the process of taking applications from owners, tenants and businesses in the area as part of the application process and a public information meeting would be held on January 17 at 6:00PM at the Rex Theater. Mayor Mitchell declared the Public Hearing closed when no other comments were made.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date set for the Public Hearing for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. Keith Barker and Councilman Garner, who serves as Chairman of the WIB Consortium Board, spoke briefly and shared the details of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). In January 2010, the thirteen (13) political jurisdictions in the New River Valley and Mount Rogers Area entered into an agreement which utilized Joint Powers of Authority to execute their legal obligations under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which formed themselves into a legal entity for the purpose of securing additional grants and outside funding. In 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) replaced WIA effective July 2015. Due to that change, the originally approved Consortium Board Agreement had been revised to bring it in compliance with WIOA. That revision required that the new Consortium Board Agreement be approved by ordinance for all thirteen (13) political jurisdictions as was originally done. Mr. Barker noted the revised Consortium Board Agreement and ordinance had both been reviewed and revised by Stephen Durbin, Attorney, with Sands Anderson. The Consortium Board Agreement was approved prior to the Public Hearing by the Executive Committee of the Consortium Board. Mayor Mitchell declared the Public Hearing closed when no other public comments were made.

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the ordinance. Councilman Davis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker gave Council an update and current planning activities for the Wired Road Authority. He said WR was currently in the process of two projects, an updated planning document and an ARC Grant. The updated planning document was a review of the 2008 plan and would take a new look at technologies that were not in place with the original plan, in addition to developing a possible coverage in the counties of 100%. He said the intent was to look at new wireless equipment with a series of towers in the counties which may also serve to house public safety communication equipment. Mr. Barker explained that technology had now changed to the point that point to point wireless was very reliable and capable of business like service. A survey was prepared and ready to present to citizens in the Twin County region that would help in the planning and study phase of this project. WR also had a consultant develop a Facebook page (*The Wired Road Broadband Authority*) for access to the survey and information about WR. He said the second project was for a 5 mile fiber link along Airport Road in Carroll County that would complete a fiber link from Galax to Hillsville. This was an estimated \$600,000 project with 50% funding from ARC and 50% from WR. Mr. Barker closed by saying that completion of construction was expected to be this fall.

Keith Barker addressed Council regarding a budget amendment and Police Department Grants. He explained Galax Police Department had been awarded two grants from the Governor's Office in support of his "Policing in the 21st Century" Initiative. The grants were approved by the Criminal Justice Services Board at their December 9, 2016 meeting in Richmond. The grants would support training and equipment to enhance the recipient agencies' community inclusive policing efforts. Money for the grants would come from federal funds awarded to the Commonwealth from the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. The awarded grant amount totals are \$25,726 (\$18,000 grant/ \$7,726 match) for software and \$17,244 (\$17,244 grant/match for staff time) for specific training in policing methods.

Mr. Barker said that he had spoken at the October 24, 2016 meeting regarding the recent USDA grant and loan applications for police cars. He said funds budgeted as a match for the cars were now available for a required software purchase at the Police Department. These awarded grant funds offset \$18,000 of that purchase with the remainder coming from the Appropriate Fund Balance Line Item 3510-0101 that had matching funds designated for the Police Cars. The training in policing grant would use Chief Clark's time and staff at the New River Justice Training Academy as match for these funds. Mr. Barker informed Council with the required software purchase and previously approved USDA funding for police cars, there was a need to amend the budget in the following categories:

| Revenue | Account Description | Current Budget | Amended Budget | Increase/Decrease |
|-----------------|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 3331-0142 | USDA - POLICE DEPT GRANT | \$ 29,700.00 | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ 20,300.00 |
| | 21st Century Policing Grant - | | | |
| 3240-0340 | Software | \$ - | \$ 18,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| 3240-0341 | 21st Century Policing Grant - Training | \$ - | \$ 17,244.00 | \$ 17,244.00 |
| | | \$ 29,700.00 | \$ 85,244.00 | \$ 55,544.00 |
| Expense Account | | | | |
| 9900-5555 | Police Cars | \$ 53,777.00 | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ (3,777.00) |
| 9900-5555 | Detective Vehicle (Used) | \$ - | \$ 16,301.00 | \$ 16,301.00 |
| | 21st Century Policing Grant - | | | |
| 9950-5555 | Software | \$ - | \$ 25,776.00 | \$ 25,776.00 |
| 9950-5555 | 21st Century Policing Grant - Training | \$ - | \$ 17,244.00 | \$ 17,244.00 |
| | | | \$ 109,321.00 | \$ 55,544.00 |

Mr. Barker closed by saying the proposed categories shown to Council, the revenue and expenditures were balanced. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to authorize the City Manager to sign related documents for the "Policing in the 21st Century" Grants. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the Police Department budget amendment as presented. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.


Mayor Mitchell asked Council to consider approval of the 2017 Festivals and Street Closures calendar presented by the Tourism Office. Ray Kohl was present to answer questions. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve the 2017 Festivals and Street Closures calendar. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

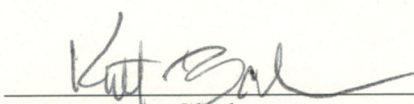
Mayor Mitchell asked Council to consider approval of the 2017 City Council Meeting Calendar. Keith Barker noted the VML Conference was scheduled for the first Monday in October, and he would not be available the remainder of that week and would ask Council to set the October meeting date as the 4th Monday. He said that he had not included the Monday immediately after Thanksgiving or Monday, December 25 (Christmas) as we typically did not meet then. He said we could still call a meeting during those months if necessary. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the 2017 City Council Meeting Calendar. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell asked Council to consider approval of the 2017 Holidays & Sanitation Calendar. The proposed Holiday calendar listed the alternate sanitation collection days. Keith Barker noted the approved calendar would be mailed to citizens in an upcoming water bill and would be included on our City website. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the 2017 Holidays & Sanitation Calendar. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell asked Council to consider approval of the FY2018 Budget Calendar as well as make appointments to the 2018 Budget Committee. Keith Barker informed Council that variables with the state and school budgets may move dates on the calendar. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the 2018 Budget Calendar and re-appoint Mayor Mitchell & Councilman Garner to the 2018 Budget Committee who have served in this role previously. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8: 15 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk

