

Galax City Council

Minutes

February 13, 2017

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 13, 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, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Councilman Garner prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 23, 2017. 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, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that a draft ordinance regarding yard sale signage had been finalized by our City Attorney. At the last Council meeting, the committee of Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Helmick and Keith Barker met on January 18 and discussed the following possible revisions:

- a. Permitting directional signage to a yard sale using our snow priority streets as the determination of where signs can go. Basically up to three (3) directional signs would be permitted, which from our review would get someone from most major routes to the street where a yard sale is conducted.
- b. Directional signage must include the homeowners address and dates of the sale.
- c. Directional signage must include written approval if that sign is located in front of a residence, even if located on the City right of way.
- d. Signs must be removed by 6:00 PM on the last day of the sale.
- e. Signs may not be attached to utility poles.
- f. The maximum sign size is 18" x 24".
- g. Sign removal would be the responsibility of the Police Department or other staff person as directed by the City Manager.

Keith Barker clarified that it was the owner's responsibility to remove the signs after the yard sale. Also, Mr. Barker said the draft ordinance was ready for publication or consideration of final changes. After a small discussion, Council agreed by a consensus vote to hold over the proposed ordinance change until the next meeting on February 27, 2017.

Chief Ron Passmore from Galax Grayson EMS was present to request Council's approval of lease/purchase documents. Chief Passmore explained that GGEMS had negotiated the purchase of two (2) used ambulances from a department in Ohio. He said the board solicited and agreed to a lease/purchase loan with a 4-year term from Grayson National Bank, however at the January 2017 meeting of GGEMS, the board learned that Grayson National Bank required the loan to actually be through the City of Galax because we served as the entity that holds real property for GGEMS. Keith Barker told Council that all vehicles, facilities and equipment were titled through the City per the original agreement that GGEMS created. With that requirement, the GGEMS Board voted at the January meeting to request that Galax City Council approve the loan documents, however all repayment would be from GGEMS. Besides a request letter from Chief Passmore, a resolution for adoption, and a copy of the lease/purchase loan document were presented to Council for review. Prior to the meeting the City Attorney had prepared and reviewed the documents.

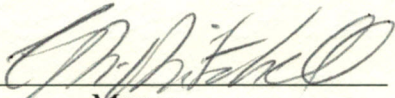
Council had several questions for Chief Passmore regarding the mileage on the proposed vehicles to purchase as well as the mileage on the soon to be retired ambulances. Chief Passmore stated that both of the proposed vehicles to purchase were made in 2012 and would cost approximately a quarter of a million dollars to purchase brand new. He said we would be purchasing them for \$40,000 and they have 40,000 miles on each. In closing Chief Passmore stated that GGEMS had just retired two ambulances, one had 526,000 miles on it and the other had 235,000 miles on it. He said the average life of an ambulance is 125,000 miles. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the lease/purchase documents as provided and authorize the City Manager, Keith Barker to sign any necessary documents to complete the loan on behalf of GGEMS. Councilman Helmick 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, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick.

Keith Barker presented a request to approve utility easement documents for new sewer line work associated with the Ballards Branch and Fries Road Pump Stations. Mr. Barker explained with the overall renovation of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and pump stations, we were looking to replace the force main and some gravity flow lines that traveled from these pump stations to the plant. He said the lines traveled along portions of Kenbrook Drive, Fries Road and Waterwheel road. While would be traveling the same route as the existing lines, staff felt it would be appropriate to secure new easements along the route that also addressed temporary access for construction.

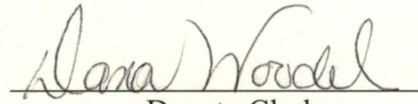
As stated in the easements, efforts would be made to restore the properties to their original condition. The easement as written required approval of the document by City Council and authorization of the City Manager to execute each easement. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the easement document and authorize the City Manager to execute each easement.

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, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:55 p.m.



Mayor



Deputy Clerk