

Galax City Council
Minutes
February 27, 2017

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 27, 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.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell called for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 13, 2017. Councilman Helmick noted on the February 13, 2017 minutes that "yea" was left off from his name on the approval of the January 23, 2017 minutes. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the amended minutes of February 13, 2017. 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, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

Mayor Mitchell along with Council presented a resolution of recognition to William Bottomley, creator of High Country Lights. Mayor Mitchell thanked Mr. Bottomley for his generous contribution of time and effort in bringing his High Country Lights show to Galax.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council of a draft ordinance regarding yard sale signage which was finalized by our City Attorney since the February 13th meeting. It included the revision for when a sign may be first displayed. Mayor Mitchell said if Council was satisfied with the final version, we would need to advertise the revised ordinance and hold a public hearing at the March 13th Council meeting or thereafter. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to accept the draft ordinance and authorize the City Manager to advertise a public hearing on March 13, 2017. 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, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced the Galax School Board formally was seeking City Council's approval to begin the planning, design and construction of the Galax Elementary School Project. The School Board noted if Council would consider this issue prior to the board's March 14 meeting, the School Board could consider how to move forward on a contract with the selected architect. For the full application and refinancing that was presented by Davenport at the joint February 13 meeting, it was recommended by our Attorney and staff that we contract with someone such as Davenport to assist and guide us through these various bond packages. Mayor Mitchell said Montgomery County selected Davenport for their financial consulting services and had a piggyback clause in their RFP. This would permit us to select Davenport and negotiate a rate with them.

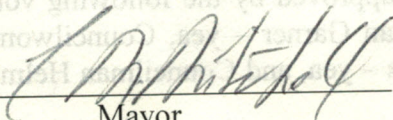
After a discussion among Council, each voicing their opinion regarding the project, Councilman Garner made the motion to approve Galax School Board's request to move forward with the school project. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – nay (opposed).

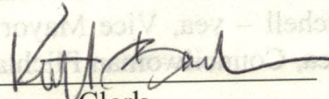
Chief Rick Clark was present to give an update on the Galax Police Department and the activities of the past year. Mayor Mitchell praised the Galax Police Department for keeping our community safe.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Bill Sturgill, Galax Schools Superintendent, had notified Council that the School Board appointment of Mr. Larry Spangler would be expiring on June 30, 2017. Mayor Mitchell said if approved, we would run advertisements for the appointment and receive letters of interest through March 22, 2017, and set March 27, 2017 as the meeting where Council could interview prospective candidates. The appointment would be made at the April 10, 2017 meeting. The term would be for three years, effective July 1, 2017. Councilman Helmick made the motion to advertise the appointment and accept letters through March 22, 2017. 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, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to set March 27 as the meeting to interview candidates. 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 – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:35 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk