

Galax City Council
Minutes
March 27, 2017

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on March 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.

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

Mayor Mitchell recognized Dave Nelson who recently retired as Galax Recreation Center Director. Mayor Mitchell announced that the road that leads into Felts Park and the Galax Recreation Department would be named "Dave Nelson Drive" in his honor for his many dedicated years of service to the City. A replica of the sign was given to Mr. Nelson as a memento. The Mayor and Council thanked Mr. Nelson and wished him well for the program that he managed that became the standard for programs in Southwest Virginia.

At 7:37 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Crouse to enter into closed session under closed session regarding a **School Board Appointment / 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. Council received one letter of interest for the open school board seat. The only applicant was Larry Spangler, the current appointee. A closed session was set so Council could interview Mr. Spangler. 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, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

At 8:20 p.m., Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia code section were discussed and no action taken, with the following affirmation: 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 approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 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.

City Manager, Keith Barker informed Council of a request by the City attorney to consider adopting a reimbursement resolution for the Galax Elementary School Project.

Mr. Barker explained as we progressed through the Galax Elementary School Project and if it was approved, the mentioned resolution would allow us to use the borrowed funds to repay our costs to date such as design, engineering and construction. He noted the adoption of the resolution does not obligate City Council to approval of any bonds or of the project. A copy of the proposed calendar for the financing was given to Council, but Mr. Barker said that the calendar may change as the project is considered during the City's budget sessions. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve adopting the reimbursement resolution. 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.

City Manager, Keith Barker gave an update on the Cranberry Road Project. Mr. Barker said after a number of months of negotiations with VDOT, the City was pleased to announce that we had signed engineering agreements with Lane Group and design of the Cranberry Road Project was underway. He said surveying was underway and approximately 50% complete with a completion date of April 14. The Lane Group had met with CenturyLink concerning potential utility conflicts. Mr. Barker said design work would begin in mid to late April. The plans for the project would include sidewalks, street lights, and widening & smoothing out the curve.

City Manager, Keith Barker announced that the East Stuart Drive Sidewalk Project did not score high enough to receive a recommendation for funding in FY2018. He said we had met with VDOT staff and they had encouraged us to resubmit the project in FY2019 (September 2018). We would work with VDOT staff to decide if there were changes we needed to make that would help our overall scoring of the project.

City Manager, Keith Barker informed Council of the Primary Extension/State of Good Repair Funding Program through VDOT. He said in speaking with VDOT staff, we were encouraged to apply for funding through their Primary Extension Paving Program. Mr. Barker stated this program had approximately \$2,000,000 in funding for the Salem District and was intended to provide additional paving funds to a locality based on pavement conditions. A listing of City streets that were under consideration by VDOT was given to Council. Only streets that had a pavement condition rating (CCI) of 60 or less were eligible for consideration. We applied through this same program last year for Reserve Blvd., however we were unsuccessful in obtaining funds due to a scoring error by VDOT. We completed all work on Reserve Blvd. and W. Stuart Drive that were listed, so we have submitted applications for all remaining City streets eligible for funds. Applications for FY2018 included portions of E. Stuart Drive, N. Main Street and S. Main Street. There were a total of 7 applications (one was required for each section of road being considered) totaling \$879,314 so it would be possible we would see only a portion of our applications considered based on the VDOT scoring criteria. There were no local matches required on these funds.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that the City Engineering and Utility Staff recently conducted tours with the Galax City Schools as part of the enrichment week programs. He stated there were numerous positive comments from the students and adults that attended. Seeing that some of our citizens had an interest in seeing how these facilities operate, City Utility and Engineering Department staff have planned to offer free public tours of the Galax Water Treatment Plant and the Galax Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The water and wastewater treatment operators would provide information on the various treatment processes involved with producing domestic drinking water from Chestnut Creek and the cleaning of wastewater necessary to safely return it to the New River. The tours would be given to a limited number of people on a first come first serve basis. Tours were planned to be offered three or more times a year, depending on the public's interest. The tours would be scheduled in the evening hours and on Saturdays. Advertisement of the scheduled tour dates would be given on the community bulletin board and the Gazette. Mr. Barker and Mayor Mitchell commended our staff for volunteering to develop this public program.

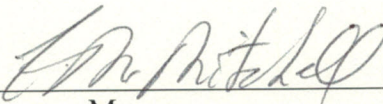
Mayor Mitchell reminded Council of the first budget/planning meeting on April 3 at 6:00 PM. He said draft budgets would be emailed before the end of the week and we would have copies of departmental and agency requests available as requested.

Mayor Mitchell made Council aware that the Carroll-Galax-Grayson Solid Waste Authority (CGGSWA) would be sponsoring an event on April 1 for collection of household hazardous waste and paper shredding services. He said the event would be held in partnership with Galax and Grayson County at the Galax Public Works facility on Fair Street from 8:00 – 12:00 and at the Grayson County Public Works facility from 1:00 to 4:00. Items from Galax, Carroll and Grayson households only could be dropped off, which would then be sorted by staff and the contracted service company. This event was held last fall in Carroll County at the landfill and was well received. Costs for the contracted services and disposal would be paid by CGGSWA.

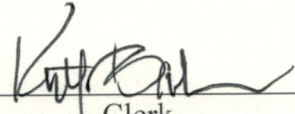
At 9:08 PM a motion was made by Councilwoman Crouse to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia: **Prospective Business or Industry, § 2.2-3711.A.5 of the Code of Virginia** - Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. 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.

At 9:25 p.m. Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell 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 Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Davis – yea, and Councilman Helmick – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:30 PM



Mayor



Clerk

