

## Galax City Council

### Minutes

April 24, 2017

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on April 24, 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 April 10, 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date advertised for a conditional use zoning request from Chestnut Creek School of the Arts. Chris Pollins of CCSA and the Public Art Committee spoke to Council about a request to install a mural at the Grayson Street Stage area. Daniel Riegel, Zoning Administrator, and Chris Pollins, CCSA, was present to talk about the request. The Planning Commission met on April 18 to consider the request. Mr. Riegel informed Council of the Planning Commission's recommendation for approval. Ms. Pollins showed a drawing of the proposed project to Council and answered any questions. The project would cost approximately \$7,000. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments regarding the proposed request. There were none. Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the mural request. 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.

Mr. Bill Sturgill, Galax School Superintendent, was present to speak about the FY2018 Galax City Schools Budget. The revenue and expenditure line items budgets were received from the schools for review by Council. This meeting was set to hear about the budget and offer comment from Council, however May 8, 2017 has been requested for a public hearing on the Galax City Schools FY2018 Budget. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to set the public hearing for May 8, 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.



Keith Barker informed Council of a request to hold a public hearing regarding bond issuance for proposed projects. Mr. Barker explained in order to be prepared to proceed with the bond issuance for the Galax High School Turf Field Project and the Galax Fire Department Rescue Pumper purchase, our attorney notified us that we would need to hold a public hearing on May 22. Mr. Barker closed by saying that it was a requirement to advertise in the local paper a minimum of two times before the public hearing. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve May 22 for a public hearing regarding bond issuance for proposed projects. 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.

Kevin Spurlin and Demi Sexton was present to talk about the Financial Stability Program being managed through the VCE. We are jointly funding this program with Carroll and Grayson and sponsored through United Way of Southwest Virginia. The representatives explained the program is a free service to our citizens and would assist them in financial household planning and management. Mr. Spurlin will also gave a brief presentation on the Virginia Cooperative Extension and their role in our community.

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance, was present to request a budget amendment that would address the following items: the purchase of new voting equipment in FY2018, payoff of the USDA loan for the Galax Police Department vehicles we purchased this fiscal year, amendment to the Galax Grayson EMS Budget for FY2017. Ms. Taylor-Gallimore explained all funds were from underspending on the expenditure side and do not require additional revenue. As the amendment did not require a change in the total revenue or total expenditures, a public hearing was not required. The funds for the voting machine require no council action as we would carryover current capital contingency money towards that FY2018 purchase. The payoff of the GPD vehicles and reallocation of funds for Galax Grayson EMS were from a cost savings in the Finance Department Software Support and from a savings in our property/liability insurance. The changes as presented balance within the budget.

Description or Department	Purpose	Expense Code	Proposed Change
Redemption of Principal	Pay USDA Loan for Police Car	10.4.9401.9110	23,000
Galax-Grayson EMS Allocation	Estimated Increase in Costs	10.4.3203.5699	25,000
Finance Software Support	Reallocate to EMS and Debt	10.4.1214.3160	(8,000)
Insurance	Reallocate to EMS and Debt	10.4.9102.5300	(40,000)

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. 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.

Susan Clark, Galax Department of Social Services was present to talk about the months of April and May being Adult Abuse Prevention Month, Foster Care Month, and Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Keith Barker informed Council of a request for approval from David Hix and Spencer Marshall for a GHS Senior Project. He explained these seniors wanted to repaint the downtown *walking* footsteps with Galax leaves leading from the New River Trail to the downtown area. Once in the downtown area, the leaves would follow the same path as the current footsteps. These students solicited donations for materials and supplies and requested permission for approval for this project. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the GHS Senior Project request. 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 if there were any comments from visitors. David Stone & Katherine Jadlow were present to voice concerns regarding the patients of the Life Center. Mr. Stone explained he and his wife were concerned about a recent incident in which a patient had approached the door of their home and was very confused. Mr. Barker advised there had been communication regarding the issue between the director of the Life Center - Lisa Saulter, Rick Clark - Police Chief, and himself. He said there were regulations that prohibit Mr. Stone's request to have a fence built around the Life Center to "lock" the patients in. He also informed Council, Mr. Stone and Mrs. Jadlow that Ms. Saulter had offered to come to an upcoming Council meeting to discuss the matter.

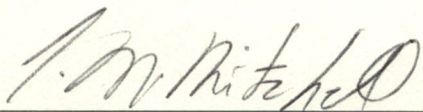
At 9:00 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Plichta to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia:

- **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.

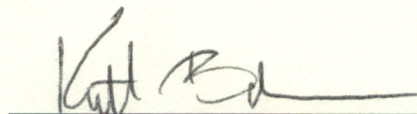
Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 9:20 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 was taken, with the following affirmation: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:20 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk