

Galax City Council
Minutes
November 13, 2017

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

Mayor Mitchell administered Oaths of Office and welcomed newly hired Galax Police Department Officers Jason Horner and Mitchell Lineberry.

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 16, 2017. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was that date set for the public hearing which concerned parking ordinance revisions in City Code - Section 148. Mayor Mitchell asked City Manager, Keith Barker to recap the information regarding the ordinance. Mr. Barker explained the ordinance as it was currently written was vague in regards to penalties and how to appeal a ticket. It puts the authority to make changes on the City Manager or his staff. The draft ordinance as it was presented would still authorize the City Manager as the authority to make changes, but only after a resolution of support from City Council. It would also call out how to appeal a ticket and would allow fines to be increased from the current \$5 per ticket to an amount approved by resolution from Council. Mr. Barker explained if Council approved the ordinance revisions, staff would review items of concern and bring resolutions at future meetings as Council would be the final authority. The revised ordinance would be in effect when adopted. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. There were none. Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. Councilman Helmick made the motion to adopt the parking revisions to City Code Section 148. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was that date set for the public hearing on the Bond Anticipation Note for the Galax Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. Keith Barker explained we postponed the bid until November 7, 2017 but would not close on the loan until after November 30. The current BAN expired would expire on November 30. Skyline National Bank holds that bond and agreed to extend the terms until December 31. A public hearing and approval of the ordinance which was given to Council was required in order to extend the bond. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the BAN Ordinance extension. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Davis. Councilman Helmick abstained.

Keith Barker informed Council of an item for consideration regarding undeveloped alleys and the approval of the application process. This topic was held over from the October 16, 2017 meeting. A copy of the Alley Closure Policy and the application were given to Council for final consideration and approval.

Council may approve the policy as presented or may make additional changes as requested. As this is a policy and not an ordinance, it does not require a public hearing. Councilman Davis made the motion to approve the Alley Closure Policy and Application. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Keith Barker informed Council that staff have considered an alternate recycling center site and he had made contact with V&M Recycling concerning their site and what services they offered. To recap the discussion to date:

- A site at the Recreation Center was identified and has been staked out for review. This site would require grading, a concrete pad, signage, etc. We applied for a grant to assist in those costs but were not awarded funds.
- Staff considered an alternate site and have identified a location beside Public Works on Fair Street, across from the Animal Shelter. This site would require less prep work, really needing only the fencing and signage. Both sites would require a camera for general oversight of the drop off area.
- Keith Barker met with Jay Moore of V&M Recycling. V&M currently offers recycling for the materials we are considering, plus other materials as they develop a market for it. V&M was considering how to make their location more customer friendly to allow for easier access for residential recycling. Mr. Barker's discussion with them considered how to improve their location, possibly assisting with public notification of the services they offer, etc.
- Keith Barker spoke with Jay Moore from V&M who stated the City would have to staff and be financially responsible for any changes to their facility to accommodate the City's recycling. Mr. Moore stated that there would not be enough profit for V&M to improve his business, but they would be willing to pick up the City's dumpsters and sort them if we so desired.
- Grayson County which already has a system for collecting would be willing to set up a segregated dumpster on the Galax site and service it regularly.

Mr. Barker explained that it would be less expensive for the City to put the recycling center beside of Public Works where there is already a paved area. Mr. Barker said it would cost approximately \$3,000 to complete a recycling center for the City. The costs would include fencing, signage, and installation of a security camera. Grayson County which already has a system for collecting would be willing to set up a dumpster on the Galax site and service it regularly. Councilwoman Plichta said she was concerned with the recycling area becoming a possible dump. Councilman Helmick made the motion to go with the recycling site beside of Public Works. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick. Councilwoman Plichta voted against.

Mayor Mitchell announced that Council was asked to set December 11, 2017 as the date for a public hearing on amending the FY2018 budget. He explained since the budget was approved, we have received various grants that we needed to include in the budget in order to recognize the revenue and expenditures that may occur this fiscal year.

There was also a need to recognize the transfer of loan proceeds for the GHS Football Field. Because the changes represent more than 1% of the current budget, a public hearing was required. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve setting December 11, 2017 as the public hearing for the FY2018 Budget Amendment. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell announced a vacancy on the Galax Department of Social Services, Advisory Board. He said Dr. Eugenia Larrowe served on the Galax DSS Advisory Board but had resigned due to relocating outside of the area. Ms. Susan Clark, DSS Director, had been searching for a replacement board member that would allow us to continue to increase the diversity of the board makeup. Ms. Edit Mar Castillo (known as Edith Mar), an ESL Teacher at Galax Elementary School had expressed an interest in being appointed to this board. The term would be from November 2017 to November 2020. Councilman Helmick suggest running an ad in the local newspaper before making a decision. After a brief discussion, Mayor Mitchell said it was the consensus among Council to hold off on an appointment until the vacancy was advertised.

Keith Barkier informed Council of a request to extend the deadline for Personal Property tax collections from December 5, 2017 to January 5, 2018. Mr. Barker explained there had been technical issues with the tax software this year that would not allow the printing and mailing of the invoices in time to meet the deadline for mailing as required under the Code of Virginia. All mailings must occur 14 days minimum prior to the collection deadline. In order to complete a proper review of the invoices, the time extension was needed by the Commissioner of Revenue and Director of Finance offices. A notice would be mailed with the tax bills as well as other notifications. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to extend the deadline for Personal Property tax collections to January 5, 2018. Councilman Helmick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

ADJOURN

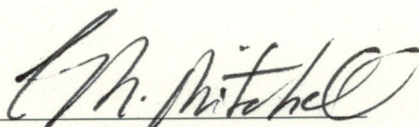
With no visitors, or public comments, Mayor Mitchell entertained a motion made at 8:25 p.m. by Councilwoman Crouse to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia:

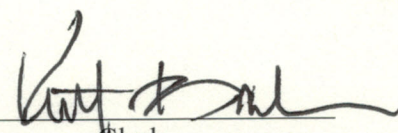
Prospective Business or Industry, § 2.2-3711.A.5 of the Code of Virginia - Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

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

At 9:10 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, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk

