

Galax City Council  
Minutes  
December 10, 2018

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on December 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

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, Councilman Greene, Councilman Davis, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilwoman White. Vice Mayor Plichta and Councilman Davis were absent.

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

Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 12, 2018. Councilman Greene seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilwoman White.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date advertised for a public hearing concerning the FY2019 Galax City School Budget. City Manager Keith Barker gave an explanation of the increase in revenue. With a higher student enrollment (1220 budgeted vs. 1255 enrolled), the schools need to amend their budget to recognize additional state and federal funds that will be received in the amount of \$432,071. No additional city funds are required. Additional revenues are being used throughout the budget but \$125,000 is being allocated to the GES and additional funds are being used for a new administrative position that is required by the state in 2020. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comments. With no comments received, the public hearing was closed. Councilman Haynes made the motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Councilwoman Ritchie seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilwoman White.

City Manager Keith Barker gave an update on the stormwater preliminary engineering review. Kevin Heath of Lane Group will be at the January meeting to discuss the stormwater surveying and overview to date. Mr. Barker said that preliminary information shows the system is too small in areas due to upstream development and that it appears parts of the system were installed privately. It does appear that there may be some VDOT funding for assistance with portions of replacement provided the work is in the street right of way, however funds are only available every other year with the revenue sharing submittal process. Mr. Barker explained that this will be a long term issue for the City to consider as we move into the FY20 budget cycle.

Mr. Barker informed Council that we had received a letter from David Richardson with District III concerning our current funding the Mountain Lynx transit system. A copy of the letter was included in the packet. District III Executive Director David Richardson asking City Council to consider an amendment to their annual support in the amount of \$1,533. Mr. Barker explained that when we began the current budget work sessions, no additional funds were provided to outside

agencies including District III's additional request of \$3,066. In speaking with Mr. Richardson, they have been able to work with the current funding through the first part of this fiscal year, however they are going to have to reduce services from January to July from 131 hours per week to 118 hours per week without the additional funding for the second half of the fiscal year. Councilman Greene spoke on the merits of the transit system and having tried it out for a few weeks. Other council members expressed support in maintaining the service as it currently runs. After additional discussion, Councilman Haynes made the motion to provide \$1533 in additional funding to District III for the transit service in order to maintain the current level of service. Councilwoman White seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilwoman White.

Mr. Barker said that he had met with Chief Cooper concerning some traffic issues around the GES project. The request was to see if Council was in agreement to have the Traffic Safety Committee consider elimination of parking in front of the rec center pool on S. Main St. and to install a 4-way stop sign intersection at Academy and Calhoun. Council agreed to forward this matter to the committee with a report back in January.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Councilman Davis has submitted his resignation to Council, effective December 31, 2018. Council will need to make an appointment within 45 days of his vacating office. Council will also need to make the request that a special election be included on the November 2019 ballot for this seat, with the regular election being May 2020. After discussion on how to seek out an individual to fill the vacant seat, Council agreed to seek candidates on their own, or to allow interested candidates provide a letter and resume to the City Manager's office.

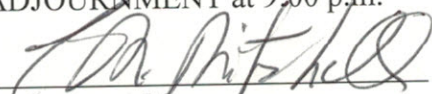
Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments, however there were none.

Councilman Haynes made the motion to go into executive session per § 2.2-3711 A.3 of the *Code of Virginia*. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Councilman Greene seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes of "yea": Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Greene, Councilman Haynes, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilwoman White.

At 9:00 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, Councilman Greene – yea, Councilman Haynes – yea, Councilwoman Ritchie, and Councilwoman White- yea.

With no further comments the meeting adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:00 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk