

# GALAX CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes

July 8, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on July 8, 2013 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, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo.

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

Mayor Mitchell recognized Anne Vaughan for 27 years of service serving on the Galax Planning Commission. Susie Dixon Garner was recognized for 8 years of service serving on the Wytheville Community College Board.

Mayor Mitchell also recognized Chief Ron Passmore, from the Galax Grayson Emergency Medical Services, for being appointed by Governor McDonnell to the Virginia State Emergency Medical Services Board.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 10, 2013. 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, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

This is the date set for City Council to appropriate the City of Galax FY2014 Budget which was approved at the June 10, 2013 meeting. The FY2013 Budget amounts are:

- General Fund Revenue and Expenditures - \$ 18,293,072
- Utility Fund Revenue and Expenditures - \$ 2,660,000
  - Real Estate - \$0.69 per \$100
  - Personal Property - \$2.25 per \$100
  - Machinery & Tools - \$1.50 per \$100

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appropriate the City of Galax FY2014 Budget. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion along with the following affirmation of votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Council was asked to consider the recommendations of the Traffic Safety Committee to reduce the speed limit on Rt. 58 Reserve Blvd. to 35MPH from Fries Road to Mt. View. Currently the traffic flow appears to be approximately 10,000 cars per day along this portion of Rt. 58. The recommendation of the committee was to reduce the speed limit from 45MPH from Fries Road to Mt. View.

Council considered the recommendations but no action was taken at this time.

City Council was asked to consider an amendment to the Galax Bottom Neighborhood Revitalization Project Housing Rehabilitation Program Design.

The Bottom Area Project Team recommended the following change to the program design in regards to homeowner payments: While the original plan called for no payment if income was below a certain level, a recommendation of a minimum \$25 per month payment is asked to be implemented.

New DHCD guidelines for CDBG Projects require a minimum \$25 payment from residents regardless of income level. The second half of the project will be under these requirements. In order to be uniform in how the project is implemented, the team asked that the program design be amended to include a \$25 payment on our first round of projects. Vice Mayor Greene motioned that Council approve the amendment. Councilman Webb seconded the motion along with the following affirmation of votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that Councilman John Garner currently serves as a member of the Board of Commissioners for District Three. His term expired June 30, 2013 and District Three has asked that council reappoint Mr. Garner or make another appointment. They have also requested that an alternate be named should the member be unable to attend. Councilman Bill Webb currently serves as the alternate and is willing to continue. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Mr. Garner to the Board of Commissioners with Mr. Webb as an alternate. 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, Councilman Webb – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Lazo – yea.


Keith Barker discussed with Council new legislation requiring that the City of Galax would provide disability insurance to new full-time employees hired after January 1, 2014. VRS is the default provider unless we opt out and seek coverage elsewhere. The rate from VRS is currently listed at almost 1% of salary (\$0.91 per \$100) which is high based on the opinion of our consultant. We are looking at other options and working with our insurance consultant to seek the best pricing. A recommendation will be brought back in August or seek a delay from VRS in making the decision to November if necessary. No action was taken at this time.

Keith Barker informed Council that BRCEDA will be holding the annual economic development briefing for Carroll, Galax, and Grayson and for our General Assembly delegation- Senators Carrico, Smith, and Stanley and Delegates Crockett-Stark and O'Quinn. He said that the 2013 briefing will be held Tuesday, July 23, 2013, beginning at 6 PM at the Crossroads Institute.

City Council was asked to adopt a proclamation recognizing the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual “National Night Out Against Crime Celebration” on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Councilman Webb motioned to accept the proclamation 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, Councilman Webb –yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk