

Galax City Council
Minutes
October 7, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on October 7, 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 Webb prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 9, 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.

Police Chief Rick Clark presented to Council the Traffic Committee's recommendation regarding a recent request by Judy Weigand. Ms. Weigand requested that parking be made available on East Oldtown Street, from Main Street to Carroll Street. The Traffic Safety Committee met on October 1, 2013 to review the request and make a recommendation. Chief Clark informed Council that the Galax City Code 148-61, authorizes the City Manager to set aside and mark parking for motor vehicles. The Traffic Safety Committee unanimously recommended that East Oldtown Street be marked to allow parking as proposed. It was presented that there will be 7 spaces created. Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the recommendation. Councilwoman Plichta 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.

Grants Administrator Brenda Marrah, and Theresa Lazo - a representative from Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, informed Council about the final funding element of the Woodworking Shop. No action was required of Council.

Keith Barker, City Manager, presented information to Council regarding the VRS Local Disability Plan. Mr. Barker informed Council that the City is required to make a decision on remaining with VRS as a provider for the mandated Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) or seeking a plan from an outside vendor. Mr. Barker explained that Matthew Smith, Corporate Benefits Consultant, assisted us in a review of plans and recommended that we opt out the VRS VLDP. There are several vendors that offers better rates than VRS and we can solicit costs through our December council meeting. He said that another item that may have to be addressed at a later date is our current sick leave policy for new hires after January 1, 2014. The current policy would not work effectively with the mandated VLDP since the intent of the program is to cover costs for staff when they are on a short or long term disability. Mr. Barker told Council that the program would not take effect until after sick leave is exhausted so we are looking at how to modify our program for those staff members that are affected.

Councilman Garner made the motion to opt out of the VRS Virginia Local Disability Program. 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.

Mayor Mitchell amended the agenda, changing the order of new business – putting Mr. Jon Applebaum, the President and CEO at Twin County Regional Healthcare, to be the first item of new business. Mr. Applebaum presented to Council information regarding the upcoming 40th Anniversary of Twin County Regional Hospital. Mayor Mitchell also presented a proclamation to Council and asked for Council to approve it as presented. The proclamation is in honor of TCRH for forty years of service. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the proclamation as presented. 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.

Ken McFadyen and Mandy Archer presented to Council an overview of happenings with BRCEDA and the SBDC. No action was required of Council.

Keith Barker informed Council that Mount Rogers Planning District Commission notified us that the appointment of Ron Catron will expire December 2013. Mr. Barker told Council that he spoke to Mr. Catron and he is willing to continue serving if Council wishes him to. He asked City Council to consider the appointment to MRPDC. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to re-appoint Ron Catron to the MRPDC. 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 was informed by Keith Barker that we received notice from Comcast in regards to their new rates. A copy of the information was provided in the packets. He said that the basic tier will decrease from \$12.95 to \$12.91, however other programming and equipment charges are increasing. No action was required of Council.

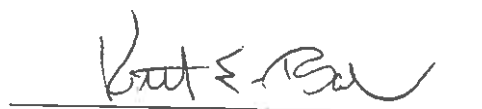
Keith Barker reminded Council of the Virginia Municipal League Conference which is set for October 13-15, 2013 in Arlington, VA.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk