

Galax City Council
Minutes
November 12, 2013

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 12, 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.

Councilwoman Crouse prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 7, 2013. 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.

Sarah Beamer, from the Mount Rogers Community Service Board, presented to Council a request to consider adopting a financing resolution in support of MRCSB seeking funding for a building renovation. Ms. Beamer explained to Council as Galax is a member agency, they must seek support from all localities covered within their service area. Ms. Beamer also stated that there will be no cost or obligation to Galax. It was also noted that the documents in question have been reviewed by the Galax City attorney. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the Financing Resolution 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.

Carolyn Howard, P.E. Draper Aden & Associates, presented to Council information regarding the stormwater program that the City has been developing as part of the requirements from the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and DEQ. All localities are mandated to implement a program which includes a fee structure, staffing plan, ordinance, and guidance documents. An overview of the program was presented for consideration. Ms. Howard told Council that the draft plan must be approved by December 15 and submitted to DCR for review and comment. Keith Barker, City Manager informed Council that a draft version of the ordinance, staffing & funding plan, and guidance documents will be presented at the December 9, 2013 Council meeting. It was also stated that the final plan must be approved by April 2014 and go into effect by July 1, 2014. No action was required of Council.

Keith Barker informed Council as a tie into the previous item, the City of Galax applied for a grant that would provide funding for additional engineering assistance in developing our stormwater plan, as well as funding for a GIS staff person for a period of time. A \$45,408 grant award is from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. He stated that because of the increased burden on staff time to develop the stormwater program, we have requested funding for GIS personnel, a

computer and software for that position. This would create a new GIS position that can be shared with other departments including E-911. The award would require a match, which is \$1,200 towards the purchase of software and \$15,533 from other staff time on the stormwater program. Mr. Barker stated that there would be no obligation to carry the position beyond the grant funds. Mr. Barker said that there is a need, with requirements of the Stormwater Plan, to designate a staff member to be the Stormwater Manager/Erosion Control/CMOM and shift GIS duties to another staff member. City Council was asked to consider accepting the grant and authorize the City Manager to execute all grant documents and agreement. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the Financing Resolution 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.

GGEMS Chief Ron Passmore requested of Council to review and approve the GGEMS Response Plan. Chief Passmore explained the document that was presented is required under the Code of Virginia and sets the expected response time from dispatch to arrival on the scene at 10 minutes for our EMS agency. He said that the time standard must be reviewed yearly to verify we are meeting this standard 90% of the time. The GGEMS board adopted the document at their October meeting. Councilman Webb made the motion to approve the GGEMS Response Plan 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.

Chief Ron Passmore informed Council that GGEMS recently received the Governor's Award for Outstanding EMS Agency. City Council commended GGEMS for receiving such an honorable award.

Keith Barker presented to Council information regarding Chestnut Creek Bridge Repairs (VDOT UPC 92227) – He told Council the referenced project was designated a six year improvement plan project with VDOT and was to be administered by them. He stated as we progressed through the design process, VDOT has increased the design and construction budget to over \$450,000, mainly due to the installation of a temporary traffic signal and full time VDOT inspection services. Mr. Barker said that Charlie Joyce, Public Works Director, and himself met with Schwartz & Associates Inc., our bridge consultant, to look at and discuss the project. They performed an inspection of the building and believe the project can be performed for approximately \$175,000, a figure well below the VDOT estimate and well within the funds we have budgeted. Mr. Barker has spoken to Anthony Ford, VDOT Urban Program Manager, and he is in agreement that this project can be performed more cost effectively under the Locally Administered Project (LAP) program. Included in Council's packet was a resolution authorizing the City to begin moving this project to a Locally Administered Project and authorizing the City Manager to sign documents required to move the project forward. City Council was asked to consider adopting the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the Financing Resolution as presented. 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.

Keith Barker informed Council of the VDOT FY15-20 Urban Priority SYIP Projects – Mr. Barker discussed an email included in Council’s packet from Anthony Ford, VDOT Urban Program Manager, requesting that Galax certify the list of projects as our current Six Year Improvement Plan Projects. They included by priority:

- Shaw St. Storm Water Improvements (Bottom Area Project)
- Rt. 58 Reserve Blvd. Safety Improvement Project
- S. Main St. Bridge Project

Mr. Barker also stated that if the City elects to add projects, this can be done at a later date after a public hearing. City Council was asked to approve the above as our current projects and to set the priority of the SYIP as presented. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the Financing Resolution as presented. 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.

Keith Barker informed Council that Mr. Russell Byrd, our Comcast representative, has made a request that Galax consider decertifying our FCC rate control on cable television basic rates. He stated that we are the only locality in their service area that still has this process in place and that we may do this voluntarily. Mr. Barker said if we elect to not voluntarily decertify the rates, Comcast may petition the FCC to allow this happen based on sufficient competition in the marketplace. If Council allows the decertification to take place and is not happy with changes in the rate, Council can also ask that the certification be re-established through a request to the FCC. Mr. Barker told Council there was no request to take any action at this point, but he would contact Mr. Byrd about attending the December Council meeting to explain why this would be a reasonable request.

Keith Barker updated Council about the VIEW Program, Community Service Programs & Goodwill Programs. He provided an update on programs we are partnering on and noted the cost savings they provide to the City. He explained to Council that Zeke Morton - Custodial Service / Labor Program Coordinator, with assistance from Joey Davis - Maintenance Foreman, oversees and places workers provided to us through the VIEW Program, Community Service, Goodwill Industries, and the Carroll County and Grayson County Day Report Programs. Workers are paired with other City employees or located in facilities and work performed has included janitorial services, construction, electrical, street cleanup, etc. We are required to oversee workers and report to the placing agencies. Mr. Barker said that for the first 10 months of 2013, hours worked through all programs were approximately 12,163 and equated to over \$130,000 in cost savings to the City. City Council commended Mr. Morton and Mr. Davis for their work with the program. No action was required of City Council.

Keith Barker asked Council if they wished to meet for a Council meeting on November 25, 2013. Councilman Lazo made a motion to not meet on November 25th. Councilman Webb 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.

At 8:35 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Webb to enter into closed session under **Business and Industry Development, §2.2-3711 A.5 of the Code of Virginia** - Prospective or expansion of business or industry where no previous public announcement has been made. Councilman Garner 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.

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 taken, with the following affirmation: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:10 p.m.



Mayor

Clerk