

Galax City Council
Minutes
April 13, 2015

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on April 13, 2015 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 Lazo, and Councilman Davis.

Mayor Mitchell prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell recognized Caleb Spurlin with a proclamation for earning the title of 2015 Virginia High School League Group 1A State Wrestling Champion, 1951b Division. Mayor Mitchell informed Council that Mr. Spurlin finished the year with a record of 52-1 and that he was now a two time VHSL State Champion in wrestling. Mr. Spurlin's coaches - Mitch Franklin, Billy Whitaker, and Kevin Spurlin were also present.

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 23, 2015. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Garner to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

§ Personnel Matter §2.2-3711 A.1 of the *Code of Virginia* - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees. 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, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 7:55 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 – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

After a brief closed session with Council, Mayor Mitchell announced that the appointments of Ray Kohl and Helen Kyle to the Galax School Board were set to expire on June 30, 2015. Mayor Mitchell said that Council had interviewed prospective candidates for the appointments on March 9 & 23, 2015. The Candidates for consideration were: Ray Kohl, Helen Kyle & David Stone. Mayor Mitchell asked that each Council member place their vote for each candidate. Ray Kohl received six votes from Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Lazo & Councilman Davis. Helen Kyle received six votes from Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilwoman Crouse & Councilman Davis. David Stone received two votes from Councilwoman Crouse and Councilman Lazo. Mayor Mitchell recognized Ray Kohl and Helen Kyle as being reappointed to the Galax City School Board for the term beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date advertised for a Public Hearing concerning the Galax School FY2015 Budget Amendment. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for comments. Mr. Bill Sturgill, School Superintendent, addressed Council regarding the budget revision. He explained that Galax City Schools was requesting a second amendment to the FY15 School Budget as a result of an increase in enrollment and state funds. Mr. Sturgill said that Council approved an amended budget at the January 12, 2015 meeting that reflected an additional \$334,226 in state funds. He said that this amendment represented an additional \$237,140 in state and federal funds. Mr. Sturgill closed by saying that neither amendment required any additional local tax dollars and are additional funds from other sources only. With no other comments, Mayor Mitchell declared the hearing closed. Councilman Davis made the motion to accept the Galax School FY2015 Budget Amendment. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council of the Traffic Safety Committee's recommendation, regarding the intersection of Lafayette and W. Grayson Street. Council was previously given a map showing where there had been accidents in the area from Downtown to Lafayette Street over the last three years. Mr. Barker said that after the Traffic Safety Committee met on April 2, 2015, the recommendation to Council was for the intersection in question become a four (4) way stop intersection. He noted that if the change was approved, for 60 days the signs would have a red flasher temporarily attached. Councilman Lazo made the motion to accept the recommendation by the Traffic Safety Committee. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker told Council that due to the status of the memorial construction, Mr. Frank Plichta, had requested that the planned Veterans Parade be postponed until construction was further along. He noted that a redesign of the fountain and additional detailing to ensure proper operation had created a delay in construction of that element.

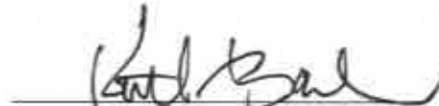
Keith Barker reminded Council that the second budget work session was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on April 20 at the Galax Municipal Building. He said that revised budgets would be sent to Council prior to the meeting.

Councilman Davis made the motion to adjourn, Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner – yea, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

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