

Galax City Council
Minutes
July 13, 2015

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on July 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. Councilman Lazo was absent.

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

Special recognition was given by Mayor Mitchell to J E Wilson who retired from Galax Public Works on July 10, 2015. Mayor Mitchell along with Council recognized Mr. Wilson for his dedicated service to the City from May 23, 1997 to July 10, 2015 (18+ years). He worked for Public Works as a general laborer and was promoted to an equipment operator in January 1998.

Mayor Mitchell congratulated and presented proclamations to the Galax Boys Soccer team and coaches for a second consecutive 1A state championship. He noted that the team finished the year 20-1. Mayor Mitchell also recognized Bryan Estrada, Felix Medina and Edgar Guzman for their First Team All-State awards. Dominic DiGiacomo was also congratulated for his First Team All-State recognition and as the 1A Player of the Year. Galax Head Coach Troy Barkley was recognized for being awarded the 1A Coach of the Year.

Clif Conley was recognized and presented a proclamation by Mayor Mitchell for his State 1A Championships in Outdoor Track 1600 and 800 meters. Mayor Mitchell stated that both runs set new school records for GHS. Coach Tony Quesenberry was present to share in the recognition.

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 8, 2015. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

This was the date set for City Council to appropriate the City of Galax FY2016 Budget which was approved at the June 8, 2015 meeting. The FY2016 Budget amounts are:

- General Fund Budget (including DSS) - \$17,948,371
- Utility Fund Budget - \$ 2,620,090

Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to appropriate the City of Galax FY2016 Budget. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that this was the date set for City Council to appropriate the City of Galax FY2016 Galax School Budget which was approved at the May 11, 2015 meeting. He noted that the FY2016 Galax School Budget amount was \$14,691,796.

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to appropriate the City of Galax FY2016 Galax School Budget. Councilman Davis 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker addressed Council regarding proposed revisions to the Tattoo Parlor Ordinance (Chapter 133) in the City Code. Mr. Barker referred to the revised ordinance which was given to Council earlier. He explained that he had spoken with a new business owner and a representative of the Health Department last year, and had discovered that the current ordinance had some references to practices that were no longer required by the state code and that do not necessarily reflect how tattoo parlors were currently operated. The City Attorney reviewed the ordinance and made the draft changes to be more closely aligned with the state code. Mr. Barker noted the first major change reflected the elimination of a required x-ray for tattoo artists each year and instead referenced that an artist must comply with the state code regarding inspections and licensing. He said the second major change eliminated the section which concerned needle sterilization since parlors now use disposable needles. Mr. Barker asked that City Council consider the changes and set the August 10, 2015 Council meeting as the public hearing for consideration in amending the ordinance. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to set August 10, 2015 @ 7:30 PM as the date for a public hearing on the proposed changes to Chapter 133, Tattoo Parlors. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker and Chief Passmore of Galax Grayson EMS addressed Council regarding a request from the Galax Grayson EMS Board concerning a resolution adopted in 2012 which designated Galax Grayson EMS as the emergency responding agency within Galax. He further explained that the GGEMS Board was asking City Council to consider adopting the enclosed ordinance which would make GGEMS the emergency medical services agency within Galax to provide transport and other services. He said that the ordinance recognized any agency in place prior to 2012. Also, any additional agency which sought permission to operate would need to be considered by Council prior to receiving permission to operate. He said the intent was to provide a service within the City which would provide for the public safety and welfare, but also considered the viability of a service that may seek a franchise within the City. Grayson County was considering the adoption of a similar ordinance and Carroll essentially has one in place at this time. Mr. Barker noted that the attached ordinance had been reviewed by the City Attorney and was ready for consideration by Council. City Council was asked to consider the ordinance and set the August 10, 2015 meeting as the public hearing for consideration in adopting this ordinance. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to set August 10, 2015 @ 7:30 PM as the date for a public hearing. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that they have been asked by Judy Taylor- Gallimore - Finance Director, for approval to publish the delinquent taxpayer list in the Gazette. He noted that the listing given was as of June 30, 2015. Keith Barker explained that the list would be amended to reflect any additional payments received prior to the ad going to the paper. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to publish the delinquent tax list in the Gazette. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that application requests from JDM, Grayson County, Waste Industries and Waste Management have been received to continue to provide solid waste dumpster service in Galax. Mr. Barker explained that fees quoted for the current haulers would remain the same and that all haulers are in compliance with the City Code. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve the application requests from the solid waste dumpster service providers. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell announced that District III has requested the reappointment Councilman Garner to the board and to appoint an alternate. Councilman Garner agreed to the reappointment, and Keith Barker confirmed that he was willing to continue serving as the alternate. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to the District III appointments. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Mayor Mitchell, along with Council, honored Warden Wright of the River North Correctional Center with a Resolution in recognition of his retirement. The Resolution which will be sent to him offered thanks for his efforts in opening the facility and hiring local citizens. Councilman Davis made the motion to approve the Resolution for Warden Wright. 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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Plichta to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

Consultation with Legal Counsel - § 2.2-3711 A.7 of the Code of Virginia - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such council.

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, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:30 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 – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:30 p.m.


Mayor


Clerk

