

Galax City Council  
Minutes  
December 14, 2015

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on December 14, 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 Plichta, and Councilman Davis. Councilwoman Crouse and Councilman Lazo were absent.

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

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 9, 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, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council of an update regarding the 2015 Enterprise Zone Amendments. Council was given copies of the approval letters of the amended Enterprise Zone and maps of the amended Enterprise Zone before the meeting. Mr. Barker explained that after our original submittal of the revised maps, some additional adjustments had to be made due to our overall revised areas. He said that while DHCD originally gave us a tentative approval on the revisions, a further review showed we had exceeded the allowable deleted areas. Mr. Barker noted that in order to complete the revisions this tax year and meet the review deadlines of DHCD, he made additional changes to add areas back to the map and to reduce the deleted area. He said the final map was very similar to the ones approved by Council, with the major exception was that we had to add a number of residential parcels back into the project. Mr. Barker said that we could amend the Enterprise Zone again in 2016 as needed to incorporate new industrial commercial areas into the zone, and could delete residential areas as needed. He told Council the maps were currently on the city online GIS website.

Mayor Mitchell welcomed Sam Hoffman, with the Virginia Department of Criminal and Justice Services Department. Mr. Hoffman presented the City with the Certified Crime Prevention Community award. Chief Clark and Officer Hall was in attendance to accept the award. This was our third time being accredited. The Certified Crime Prevention Community Program was created in 1998 and has been the only program of its kind in America. Localities in Virginia were eligible to apply for the certification if they were either accredited by DCJS or CALEA. Mr. Hoffman explained that in order to be successful, the agency must have met twelve (12) mandated program elements and seven (7) optional programs. He noted that application was made to the Department of Criminal Justice Services, reviewed by a sub-committee and approved by the full board every four (4) years. Written documentation of our proofs of compliance were provided. The Galax Police Department was one of twelve public safety agencies in Virginia to be both accredited and recognized as a certified crime prevention community. Mr. Hoffman closed by saying that Officer Kevin Hall represented Galax in a meeting in September when most participants opted not to speak. He said that the way he spoke about Galax, would have made everyone proud.

Judy Bolt, HR Director addressed Council concerning the Galax Health Insurance, Section 125 Cafeteria Plan Resolution. Ms. Bolt explained that the resolution would authorize the City to continue their Section 125 Cafeteria Plan through 2016 allowing our employees to have their health and supplemental insurances deducted from their paychecks with pre-tax dollars. She closed by saying that the plan documents have not changed from the ones approved last December. Vice Mayor Greene made a motion to approve the Cafeteria Plan Resolution. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that after he had spoken with the Registrar, he would ask Council to consider setting a called meeting on December 21 @ 10:00AM to consider a new East polling location. He said that we had been informed by the owners of the current location that it would no longer be available. With a dual primary on March 1, 2016, the Electoral Board had been working to identify a new polling location for consideration by City Council. He said with the time frame required for notifications to voters and the upcoming holidays, he asked that a called meeting be held before Christmas for consideration of a new polling location. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to move the December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 7:45 p.m. a motion was made by Vice Mayor Greene to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

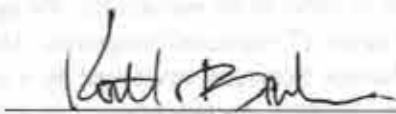
**Prospective Business or Industry, § 2.2-3711.A.5 of the Code of Virginia** - Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

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

At 8:50 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, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:50 p.m.

  
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Mayor

  
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Clerk