

Galax City Council
Minutes
January 11, 2016

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 11, 2016 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, Councilman Lazo and Councilman Davis. Councilwoman Crouse was absent.

Vice Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge J. D. Bolt presented the oath of office to recently elected William L. Davis, Jr. Mayor Mitchell thanked Judge Bolt for taking part in the Council meeting and congratulated Councilman Davis.

Mike Brown, supervisor at the Galax Water Treatment Plant, was present to accept the 2014 Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, presented from the Virginia Department of Health. Mayor Mitchell and Council told Mr. Brown they appreciated the work that he and his department perform to ensure high standards for quality water for Galax.

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 14, 2015 and the called meeting on December 21, 2015. Councilwoman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Chris Pollins, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts Director, was present to request approval from Council of proposed members to be appointed to the Public Art Committee. Ms. Pollins noted while there had been an informal committee considering public arts projects, the committee members have not yet been formally appointed. Members recommended at this time included:

City Council	<i>Margo Crouse</i>
Tourism	<i>Ray Kohl</i>
CCSA	<i>Chris Pollins</i>
Grants Admin.	<i>Brenda Marrah</i>
Business owner	<i>Becky Guynn (2 year term)</i>
Arts Council	<i>Laura Romanowski (2 year term)</i>
Community Member	<i>To be named (2 year term)</i>

Councilman Lazo made a suggestion to nominate Dr. Tom Whartenby as a community member representative, or another representative from the clergy from the community. Councilman Garner made a motion to appoint the members presented. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Chris Pollins, CCSA Director, addressed Council with ten possible locations for installation of benches for the Public Art Bench Project. Ms. Pollins gave Council a listing of the locations, along with a map and requested approval for the locations. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the locations for the benches. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker informed Council of a proposed Phase 2 Project for the Bottom Area. He explained that we were closing in on completion of the current Bottom Area Project. He said that the stormwater utility was complete and we anticipated the majority of residential and commercial construction would be complete this summer. While we had generally discussed this as the first phase in a multiphase project that would continue down Givens and Meadow Streets, an additional funding application would need to be submitted DHCD by March 2017 to proceed. He further explained that prior to that, localities were required to do a significant amount of pre-planning and conceptual project development. Grants would be considered in the middle of each month and funds would be awarded until they are depleted so applying later in the year would reduce the potential award. Mr. Barker requested that we would be permitted to apply for a \$30,000 Planning Grant to DHCD so that application and planning could begin. He said there would be a small match of \$5000, however that wouldn't occur until FY2017. We anticipated that while we would perform some master planning on the area from Shaw Street to Poplar Knob Road, we would still envision that project being broken into two phases due to the limits of grant funds available. Mr. Barker closed by saying that we also would seek possible funding from VDOT or DEQ, as matching money to DHCD, in order to consider additional stormwater work, possible sidewalks, etc. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the application for a DHCD Planning Grant. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker presented to Council a listing of proposed Festivals and Street Closures for 2016 compiled by Ray Kohl, Tourism Director. Mr. Barker asked Jessica Milby, Assistant Tourism Director, to inform Council with details of the newest event on September 10th, the Galax Antique Fair. Ms. Milby said that the event would consist of vendors selling antiques and would promote food vendors who are already located downtown. She said there would be no outside food vendors allowed. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to accept the 2016 Festivals and Street Closures. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker presented the 2016 City Council Meeting Calendar for approval. Mr. Barker noted that the annual VML Conference would occur during the October meeting. Councilman Lazo made the motion to approve the 2016 City Council Meeting Calendar. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker asked Council to approve the 2016 Holidays & Sanitation Calendar. Council members received a calendar for review. The dates included the alternate sanitation schedule at each holiday and the special pickups we do during the year. Mr. Barker explained with Council's approval, we would post and advertise the schedule at the various holidays. He noted that we would also include a copy of the document in the upcoming water bills. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to accept the 2016 Holidays & Sanitation Calendar. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker requested Council to approve the FY2017 Budget Calendar. He added that with Council's approval, we would start the process of notifying departments and outside agencies of the budget submittals. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the FY2017 Budget Calendar. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Keith Barker reminded Council that Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner had served on the Budget Committee in years past and that re-appointments or appointments would need to be made. Both Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner agreed to serve on the Budget Committee again. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the appointments. 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Lazo to enter into closed session under the following Codes 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.

§ Employment 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia – Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.

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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

At 8:28 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, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to amend the City Manager's contract to add an additional five years to the contract length, taking it through January 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Davis and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell – yea, Vice Mayor Greene – yea, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta – yea, Councilman Lazo – yea, and Councilman Davis – yea.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:30 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk