

Galax City Council
Minutes
January 22, 2018

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 22, 2018 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 Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

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

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 8, 2017. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell reminded Council of the public hearing at the last Council meeting on January 8, 2018 for the consideration and adoption of the General Obligation Bond/Ordinance. He explained the proposed bond/ordinance presented at this meeting was for the final consideration and approvals in order to proceed with the loan closing. He said the rates adopted at the Jan. 8 meeting would be used to repay this bond. Keith Barker said we had received the final loan approval package from VRA and would be ready to proceed with the loan closing once the bond was approved. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the bond/ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Davis. Councilman Helmick abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Keith Barker informed Council that Ms. Josepha B. Thompson was contacted and had expressed an interest in being considered for appointment to the MRPDC as the minority appointee. He said this was a 4 year term. Ms. Thompson's resume and letter of interest were given to Council. Councilman Garner made the motion to appoint Ms. Thompson to the MRPDC as a minority appointee. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Keith Barker informed Council that US Cellular had made a request to co-locate equipment on one of the field light poles at the Galax High School football field. Mr. Barker said he had been working with a representative from the company but still did not have an item for Council's approval at this time.

Mr. Corbin Stone, Auditor from Robinson Farmer Cox, was present and gave an overview of the FY2017 audit. Mr. Stone commended the City and the Finance Director, Judy Taylor-Gallimore on a good audit. Mayor Mitchell said that Mr. Stone and Robinson Farmer Cox was appreciated for the work they have done for the City.

Keith Barker explained to Council that we were contacted by MRPDC concerning appointments for expired terms on the Executive Committee and the At-Large Member. Mr. Ron Catron's term (representing the Galax Planning Commission) expired in December 2017. Mr. Barker noted that Mr. Catron was a very involved member of MRPDC and had been a long time Galax appointee. Mr. Barker said his term as the At-Large member expired in December of 2016, however we were just notified. He noted this appointment would only attend the yearly meeting. Mr. Barker said both appointments were 4-year terms. Councilman Davis made a motion to re-appoint Mr. Catron to the MRPDC Executive Committee and Mr. Barker as the At-Large member. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Keith Barker informed Council of a request to approve the Bottom Area Policy Adoptions. The following Bottom Area Eastview Phase documents Council was asked to adopt included:

- a. Housing Rehab Program Design – This was basically the same plan adopted for the Phase I Bottom Area Project. The plan prioritizes projects based on a point schedule, mandates a \$25 minimum payment for owner occupied structures, mandates a 10% down payment for owner investor units, sets maximum rents as permitted by HUD, etc.
- b. Commercial Improvement Program Design – This was basically the same program design adopted for the Phase I Bottom Area Project. The plan requires a 1:1 match on funds spent, requires a 10% down payment by commercial businesses for work which goes towards the 1:1 match, allows the match to be counted from June 2016, sets the plan to work on building exteriors only, etc.
- c. Housing Oversight Board Bylaws – This document sets the oversight board membership and how we would operate. Members of the oversight Board are the City Manager, Councilwoman Crouse, Susan Clark, Chief Rick Clark, Brenda Marrah, Joey Davis and Officer Gonzales.
- d. Program Income Plan – This document sets how program income would be spent for future housing projects and reporting requirements to DHCD.
- e. Resolution – This resolution authorizes the City Manager to sign all documents related to the grant.

Councilwoman Plichta made a motion to approve the program designs, bylaws & income plan. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Councilwoman Crouse made a motion to adopt the resolution. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Keith Barker informed Council that we had received notice from the School Board which indicated that appointments of Mr. Ray Kohl and Ms. Helen Kyle would expire in June. Mr. Barker said with Council's consensus, we would proceed to advertise those appointments. Mr. Barker said letters of interest and interviews would be set for a future Council meeting. The consensus was to advertise the appointments.

Keith Barker informed Council that we had been notified that Councilwoman Plichta's term on the Mount Rogers Community Services Board expired on January 1, 2018. She completed the unexpired term of Mr. Robert Kirby and now would be eligible for a full 4 year term effective January 1, 2018. Councilman Garner made the motion to re-appoint Councilwoman Plichta to the MRC SB. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

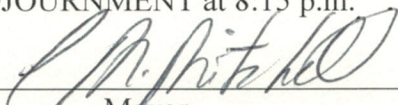
Mayor Mitchell informed Council of a proposed resolution to consider which concerned a new wireless infrastructure bill in the House and Senate. The bill would remove local authority concerning zoning matters where these new structures would possibly be located and would require approval. The proposed bill would allow structures up to 50' before a denial could take place. Councilman Garner made the motion to approve the resolution. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

Mayor Mitchell asked if there were any comments from visitors. Ms. Katherine Jadow announced that she would be moving to Massachusetts. She said she really had enjoyed living in Galax. Council members thanks Ms. Jadow for being an active participant in the Council meetings & the community and wished her well.

Councilwoman Plichta asked Council about sending a letter of appreciation to William Bottomley (High Country Lights) for the light display in Felts Park. Mayor Mitchell said that he was preparing a letter for Mr. Bottomley and it would be sent to him soon.

With no further comments, Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:15 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

