

Galax City Council

Minutes

February 26, 2018

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 26, 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.

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

Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 12, 2018. 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.

Mayor Mitchell announced that Mr. John Adams had submitted a letter of interest for serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Council reviewed Mr. Adams letter. Mayor Mitchell explained that Council would make a recommendation to the Circuit Court Judge concerning the appointment, and the judge would make the actual appointment. The appointment was for the remainder of the term of Mr. David Stone and would be from his date of appointment to June 30, 2020. Councilman Davis made the motion to recommend John Adams to be appointed to the BZA. Councilwoman Plichta 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.

Mayor Mitchell gave an update on the Caldwell Cemetery request. He said that we had been in contact with the descendants of the Caldwell Cemetery concerning their request that the City take over mowing and maintenance of their family cemetery. He said we had also reviewed possible costs in doing maintenance work and have contacted our attorney to see what might be involved. The family members were seeing if they could locate a deed to the property. While they believed one existed, they were researching how to find it through the Carroll County Clerk of Court. Keith Barker had explained to them that based on the advice of our attorney, a transfer of the property and survey may be required and they seemed agreeable to this at this point. In speaking with the City attorney, there were a couple of issues Council would need to consider. If we take over the cemetery, we must decide if it would be operated as other cemeteries in the City that we maintain, meaning anyone could request to be buried there.

The other option would be to adopt an ordinance per Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2306 that would designate the site historic and then we could restrict further burials in the cemetery. Mayor Mitchell said the maintenance costs for mowing at the cemetery was also considered. Public Works believed that they could mow the cemetery on a 2 week schedule for approximately \$1000 per year in labor costs. The matter was held over to a future meeting.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council of a School Board vacancy. He said Mr. Stewart Merdian was resigning from the School Board in March and would be taking a position out of state. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus to amend our advertisements to include the availability of the appointment. The appointment would be for the remainder of his term through June 30, 2019.

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance was present to request an amendment to the City's Purchasing Policy concerning professional services. She explained the Code of Virginia permitted negotiations with a company when the total fee was less than \$60,000, however the City's policy required a full Request for Proposals exclusive of the costs. The City had issued term contracts for some services in order to have professional consultants available, this would make an allowance to seek out additional services. It was noted that the overall policy would be brought back for review and amendments later in the year. After a discussion between Council and Ms. Taylor-Gallimore, Councilman Garner made the motion to amend the purchasing policy as presented. 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.

Mayor Mitchell requested an amendment to the order of the meeting agenda to allow the Galax Police Department update to be given before the United Way presentation.

Chief Rick Clark, Galax Police Department gave an update to Council on Galax Police Department activities and accomplishments in the past year.

Shauna Gillespie with the United Way of SWVA gave an update to City Council on the United Way and their activities in our region.

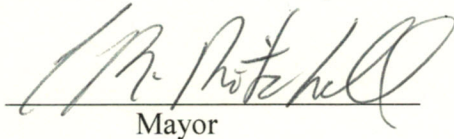
Mayor Mitchell gave a reminder to Council that we would have our residential large item pickup in the City from March 5 – 9. The event was advertised in the paper and a flyer would be included in the March water bill.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that The Carroll-Galax-Grayson Regional Landfill Authority had set April 7 as the hazardous waste collection date for Galax and Grayson County. Residents would be able to bring paint, pesticides, batteries, etc. for collection and disposal by the contracted company.

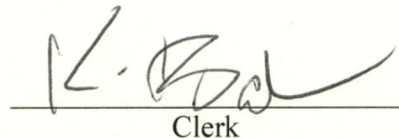
He said the Galax site would be at our Public Works location on Fair Street and would be open from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM in Galax and from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in Grayson County. A flyer would be included in the March water bill as well as local advertisements.

With no further comments, Councilman Garner made the motion to adjourn. 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.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk