

Galax City Council
Minutes
March 12, 2018

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on March 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 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, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick. Councilwoman Plichta arrived later in the meeting.

Mayor Mitchell accepted a motion made by Councilwoman Crouse at 6:30 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

- **School Board Appointments - Personnel Matter § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia**
Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.

Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick. Councilwoman Plichta arrived after the vote.

At 7:35 p.m. Mayor Mitchell declared the meeting back in session.

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

Mayor Mitchell welcomed the following student athletes who were recognized for their accomplishments this year:

- Dougie Peoples – Running Back, 2017 Virginia High School League Group 1A Offensive Player of the Year
- Christian Brown – Offensive Lineman, 2017 Virginia High School League Group 1A All-State Team.
- Sarah Elmasry – Cross Country, 2017 Virginia High School League Group 1A All State Team.

Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 26, 2018. 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 announced this was the date Council set for a public hearing which concerned a rezoning request for 1147 S. Main Street. Daniel Riegel, Zoning Administrator, informed Council of a request that Mr. Charles Moretz made to the planning commission to rezone his property from residential to B-2 General Business in order to establish a small motor repair shop. Mr. Riegel explained the Planning Commission met on March 8th and unanimously recommended approval of the rezoning. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Moretz was present and stated that the new shop would not be visible from South Main Street. He said a new small building would be constructed and that he lived in one of the adjoining houses. There being no further public comment, Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing closed. Vice Mayor Greene made the motion to approve the rezoning request. Councilman Helmick 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 gave an update on the Caldwell Cemetery request. Mr. Barker explained that we had received copies of deeds from the family members and they were sent to our attorney for review. He explained the dates were from 1895 to 1912 and appeared to be for the entire properties the family owned during that time. He said our attorney recommended we solicit costs for a survey if it could be performed, or a survey of just the fenced area of the cemetery. Mr. Barker said the thought may be to survey just the fenced cemetery and have that portion deeded to the City, with an affidavit from the remaining family members stating that they were the "owners" of the property. He said the City was still researching how to accomplish these items and were seeking estimates on costs for the work to take place. The intent would be to pass the costs along to the current owners/descendants of the cemetery for consideration in assuming maintenance going forward.

Mayor Mitchell announced due to inclement weather Demi Sexton, Family Financial Management Extension Agent, Twin County Financial Empowerment Network, had rescheduled her presentation until the 3-26-18 meeting. He said Sandy Bryant, Executive Director, Mount Rogers Community Services Board, had rescheduled her presentation until the 4-9-18 meeting.

Chris Pollins, CCSA Director, gave an update on Chestnut Creek School of the Arts. Brenda Marrah was present to talk about revisions to the Public Art Policy which included the removal of term limits for appointments of Downtown Galax business owners and representatives from the Arts Council & community. These have had a two year term limit. Councilwoman Plichta made the motion to approve the overall policy with the recommended revisions. Councilman 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.

Mayor Mitchell explained City Council had been asked to consider the adoption of a proclamation for American Red Cross Month, which was March. Councilwoman Crouse made the motion to approve the proclamation. 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.


With no further public comments, Mayor Mitchell accepted a motion made by Councilwoman Crouse at 8:30 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Code of Virginia:

- **School Board Appointments - Personnel Matter § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.

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.

At 9:10 p.m. Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified for both closed sessions 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, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:10 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

