

Galax City Council
Minutes
May 14, 2018

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 14, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

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 Plichta made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 23, 2018. 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 Council an update regarding the FY2019 School Budget. He said the intent was to have the public hearing at this meeting, however there wasn't enough information gathered prior to this meeting to run the advertisement as required by the code. He said the public hearing had been set for May 29. At that time, Council would be asked to consider the approval and adoption of the school budget. A copy of the budget that the school board adopted at their May 8 meeting was given to Council. Mr. Barker stated there was no request for increased funding from the City and the proposed budget would provide 2% raises to all staff, however salaries may be paid from multiple categories depending on federal/state/local/grant funding. He said the budget was also based on the senate version of the budget which was the most conservative of the state budgets that had been proposed. Mr. Barker closed by saying as no state budget had been put forward at this time, it was anticipated that the schools would come back after the beginning of the new fiscal year with an amended budget that reflects changes in state support.

Mayor Mitchell announced this was the date set by Council to hear public comments on a proposed Jake Brake Ordinance. The ordinance would restrict the use of jake brakes in the City. Keith Barker said he had only one conversation with a truck driver who said it was difficult to use brakes only on some streets in the City. He had received no other comments in his office regarding the matter. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comments. Travis Haynes addressed Council and asked them to carefully consider the ordinance and to be cautious about banning jake brakes in the City. He told of his experience in the military driving large trucks with jake brakes. His concern was that trucks wouldn't be able to stop in time at the traffic light at the intersection of Main Street & East Stuart Drive if they weren't allowed to use their jake brakes. With no other public comments Mayor Mitchell declaring the public hearing closed.

After a discussion among Council members, Councilman Garner made a motion to hold off on the approving the ordinance and extend the 35 mph zone eastbound on Reserve Blvd. from Armory Road to Waugh Dr. and to put up more signage. 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.

Keith Barker asked Council to set May 29 as the date for the FY2019 Budget Public Hearing. Mr. Barker said there were no tax rate or fee increases proposed as part of this budget. Councilman Garner made the motion to set the date of May 29 for the FY2019 Budget Public Hearing. 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.

Chris Pollins from CCSA was present with a request concerning a local public art project. Ms. Pollins presented a photo to Council of a banner for the downtown poles that the Public Art Committee would like to submit and request Council's approval as a public art project. Ms. Pollins explained that local artist, Becky Guynn, had designed the banner which could serve for a number of seasons throughout the year. Mr. Pollins closed by saying with Council's permission, the banner could be ordered and installed for the summer festival season this year. Councilwoman Plichta made a motion to approve the request for the banner. 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.

Keith Barker informed Council that he had participated in a conference call with VDOT staff and was notified that we were being recommended to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for awards on the following projects:

- Revenue Sharing, Bottom Area Project – Eastview Phase - \$680,000 – These funds would be matched with DHCD funds, MRPDC funds, and a portion of our storm water funds to complete the storm water/utility project.
- Transportation Alternatives, Safe Routes to School, McArthur Street - \$434,400 award, \$108,000 match (storm water funds) – The two (2) sidewalk projects that would reconstruct the sidewalk from Swanson Street to W. Stuart Drive, and from W. Stuart Drive to the Galax Public Library. The grant would be an 80% grant, 20% match.
- Highway Safety Improvement Funds, Downtown Main Street Sidewalk Improvements, \$399,710 – This was part of the sidewalk improvement projects we presented to Council a number of months ago with the concept of eliminating the 3rd lane on some blocks. This award was our first priority and would be from Washington Street to Center Street. This was a 100% grant.
- Total grant awards were \$1,514,110 with a match amount of \$108,000.

Mr. Barker said that all projects were contingent on approval from the Commonwealth Transportation Board but VDOT staff said it was rare to have a change made at this point. He said he would find out when public comments were being held and would attend if possible. No work would begin until agreements are received in FY2019.

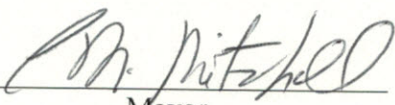
With no public comments, Mayor Mitchell accepted a motion made by Councilman Garner at 8:15 p.m. to enter into closed session under the following Codes of Virginia:

- Real Property - § 2.2-3711 A.3 of the *Code of Virginia* - Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.
- Legal Matters - § 2.2-3711 A.7 of the *Code of Virginia* - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body.

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

At 8:40 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, Vice Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Helmick.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.



Mayor



Clerk

